

QUINTILIAN PRAISES THE ORATORY OF CICERO

GRAMMAR ASSUMED:

*Imperfect Subjunctive; Present &
Imperfect Subjunctive of Sum & Possum;
Result Clauses*

WHEELOCK: CHAPTER 29

Quintilian, a renowned teacher and critic of oratory in the first century A.D., here compares Cicero favorably with Demosthenes and other Greek models of eloquence.

- Ōrātōrēs vērō Rōmānī ēloquentiam Latīnam Graecae
parem facere possunt; nam Cicerōnem oppōnam cuicum-
que eōrum, etiam Dēmōsthenī. Hōrum ego virtūtēs putō
similēs: cōsiliū, ōrdinem, ratiōnem, omnia dēnique
5 quae sunt inventiōnis. In ēloquentiā est aliqua dīversitās:
dēnsior ille, hic cōpiōsior, pugnat ille acūmine semper, hic
pondere, cūrae plūs in illō, in hōc plūs nātūrae. M. Tullius
autem mihi vidētur effīnxisse vim Dēmōsthenis, cōpiam
Platōnis, iūcunditātem Īsocratis. Nam quis docēre dīligen-
10 tius, movēre vehementius potest? Cui tanta iūcunditās
umquam fuit ut iūdicem etiam gravissimum movēre
posset? Iam in omnibus quae dīcit tanta auctōritās inest ut
dissentīre pudeat et fidem nōn advocātī sed testis habēre
ille videātur. Nōn immeritō igitur ab aetātis suae homini-
15 bus rēgnāre in iūdicīis Cicerō dictus est, et posterī tantam
glōriam eī dant ut Cicerō iam nōn hominis nōmen, sed
ēloquentiae habeātur. Hunc igitur spectēmus; hoc exem-
plum nōbīs prōpositum sit; ille sē prōfēcisse sciat, quī
didicit Cicerōnem dīligere.

—adapted from Quintilian 10.1.105–112

VOCABULARY:

ēloquentia, -ae, f.: eloquence, speaking ability

pār, paris: equal, like (+ dative)

oppōnō, -ere, -posuī, -positus: to match someone (in the accusative)
with someone else (in the dative)

oppōnam cuicumque: potential subjunctive ("I would match with anyone")

Dēmostenēs, -is, m.: famous Greek orator

ōrdō, -dīnis, m.: order, arrangement (of ideas)

inventiō, -ōnis, f.: invention, creativity (**quae sunt inventiōnis** =
which are connected with invention)

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dīversitās, -tātis, f.: difference, diversity

dēnsus, -a, -um: thick, condensed, concise

ille = Demosthenes; **hic** = Cicero

cōpiōsus, -a, -um: abundant, rich, full

acūmen, -minis, n.: sharpness, cunning, subtlety

pondus, -deris, n.: weight, authority

effingō, -ere, -fīnxī, -fictus: to express, represent

Platō, -ōnis, m.: famous Greek philosopher

iūcunditās, -tātis, f.: pleasantness, delight, charm

Īsocratēs, -is, m.: famous Greek orator

dīligentius: more carefully (from **dīligēns, -entis**)

vehementius: more emphatically (from **vehemēns, -entis**)

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auctōritās, -tātis, f.: authority

īnsum, inesse, īnfuī, īnfutūrus: to be in, be found in

dissentiō, -īre, -sēnsī, -sēnsus: to disagree

pudet (impersonal, used with infinitive): it is shameful

advocātus, -ī, m.: advocate, legal counselor

testis, -is, m. or f.: eye-witness (**testis** here = genitive)

immeritō (adverb): undeservedly, unjustly

rēgnō (1): to rule, reign

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iūdicium, -iī, n.: trial, law court

posterī, -ōrum, m. pl.: descendants, posterity

spectō (1): to look at, regard

exemplum, -ī, n.: example, model

prōpōnō, -ere, -posuī, -positus: to set something (in the accusative)
before someone (in the dative)

prōficiō, -ere, -fēcī, -fectus: to make progress

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