II

A Summer Afternoon

Cornēlia est puella Rōmāna. Flāvia quoque est puella Rōmāna. Cornēlia et Flāvia sunt puellae Rōmānae quae in Italiā habitant. Cornēlia et Flāvia sunt amīcae. Hodiē puellae nōn sedent sed in agrīs ambulant. Brevī tempore Cornēlia dēfessa est. Nōn iam ambulat sed sub arbore sedet. Flāvia, quae est puella strēnua, in agrīs currit. Brevī tempore Flāvia quoque est dēfessa. Iam Flāvia et Cornēlia sub arbore sedent quod dēfessae sunt. Dum puellae sub arbore sedent, Cornēlia legit et Flāvia scrībit. Tandem puellae ex agrīs ad vīllam rūsticam lentē ambulant. 5

1 **quoque,** adv., *also*
2 **sunt,** *(they) are*
amīcae, *friends*
3 **hodiē,** adv., *today*
sed, conj., *but*
in agrīs, *in the fields*
ambulant, *(they) walk, are walking, do walk*
brevī tempore, *in a short time, soon*
dēfessa, *tired*
4 **nōn iam,** adv., *no longer*
strēnua, *active, energetic*
currit, *(she/he) runs, is running, does run*
6 **tandem,** adv., *at last*
7 **ex agrīs,** *from/out of the fields*
ad vīllam rūsticam, *to/toward the country house and farm*
lentē, adv., *slowly*

Exercise 2a

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Respondē Latīnē:

1. Ubi habitant Cornēlia et Flāvia?
2. Quid faciunt puellae hodiē?
3. Quid facit Cornēlia quod dēfessa est?
4. Quid faciunt puellae sub arbore?

Quid faciunt...? *What are...doing? What do...do?*

BUILDING THE MEANING

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Subjects, Verbs, Linking Verbs, and Complements

Subjects and *verbs* are core elements of sentences. It is important to identify them as you meet them in Latin sentences. You may mark subjects (the person or thing that *is* or *does something*) with the letter S and verbs with the letter V:

S V
Cornēlia **est** puella Rōmāna.

S V
Puellae in Italiā **habitant.**

The verb **est** is used as a *linking verb* (LV) when it links the subject with a noun or an adjective. This noun or adjective completes the pattern of the sentence and is called a *complement* (C):

S LV C
Cornēlia **est** puella.

S LV C
Flāvia **est** dēfessa.

These sentences may also be written as follows with no change in meaning:

S C LV
Cornēlia puella **est.**

S C LV
Flāvia dēfessa **est.**

When **est** and **sunt** appear before the subject and there is no complement, they are normally translated *there is* and *there are*:

In pictūra **est** puella. (1:1)
There is *a girl in the picture.*

In pictūrā **sunt** puellae.
There are *girls in the picture.*

FORMS

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Verbs: The Endings *-t* and *-nt*

Look at these sentences:

1. Cornēlia es***t*** puella Rōmāna.
   Cornelia is a Roman girl.
2. Puella in agrīs curri***t*** quod laeta es***t***.
   The girl is running in the fields because she is happy.
3. Cornēlia et Flāvia su***nt*** puellae Rōmānae.
   Cornelia and Flavia are Roman girls.
4. Puellae in agrīs curru***nt*** quod laetae su***nt***.
   The girls are running in the fields because they are happy.

Girls playing a ball game
Fragment of a Roman relief, second century A.D.

If the subject is singular (e.g., **Cornēlia** and **puella** in the first two sentences), the verb ends in ***-t***.

If the subject is plural (e.g., **Cornēlia et Flāvia** and **puellae** in the third and fourth sentences), the verb ends in ***-nt***.

You have noticed that vocabulary lists give definitions of verbs as follows: **sedet**, *(she/he) sits, is sitting, does sit*. Verbs may be used with a noun as subject, as in the sentence **Brevī tempore Cornēlia defessa est** (line 3 in the story at the beginning of this chapter). If there is no stated subject, as in the sentence **Nōn iam ambulat sed sub arbore sedet**, you must include a pronoun when you translate: thus, *She no longer walks but sits under a tree*. Cornelia continues to be the subject since there is nothing in the sentence to indicate a change of subject.

EXERCISE 2b

Read these fragments of sentences and decide which word at the right best completes each sentence. Then read aloud and translate:

1. Flāvia in vīllā vīcīnā _____.	habitat/habitant
2. Cornēlia et Flāvia sub arbore _____.	sedet/sedent
3. Cornēlia et Flāvia dēfessae _____.	est/sunt
4. Flāvia strēnua _____.	est/sunt
5. Cornēlia et Flāvia sunt _____.	puella Rōmāna/puellae Rōmānae
6. Puellae in agrīs nōn iam _____.	currit/currunt

EXERCISE 2c

Read aloud, mentally noting subjects, verbs, and complements as you read. Note which verbs are linking verbs. Then translate:

Cornēlia est puella Rōmāna quae in vīllā rūsticā aestāte habitat. In vīllā vīcīnā habitat altera puella, nōmine Flāvia, quae est amīca eius. Dum puellae in vīllīs habitant, in agrīs saepe ambulant. Hodiē Cornēlia ad vīllam vīcīnam ambulat ubi in agrīs sub arbore sedet Flāvia. Iam puellae laetae currunt. Brevī tempore, quod dēfessae sunt, nōn iam currunt sed sub arbore sedent. 5

2 **eius,** *her* **vīllīs,** *country houses* 3 **saepe,** adv., *often*

In the passage above, how many singular verbs can you find? How many plural verbs?

EXERCISE 2d

Using story 2 as a guide, give the Latin for:

1. Cornelia and Flavia live in Italy.
2. Cornelia and Flavia are walking in the fields.
3. Flavia is running.
4. In a short time the girls are tired and sit under a tree.
5. At last the girls walk slowly to the country house.

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A Roman Family

In our family, there is a daughter, Cornelia, who is fourteen, a son, Marcus, sixteen, a father, Gaius Cornelius, and a mother, Aurelia. At the **vīlla,** the education of the children is in the hands of their parents and a Greek slave, Eucleides.

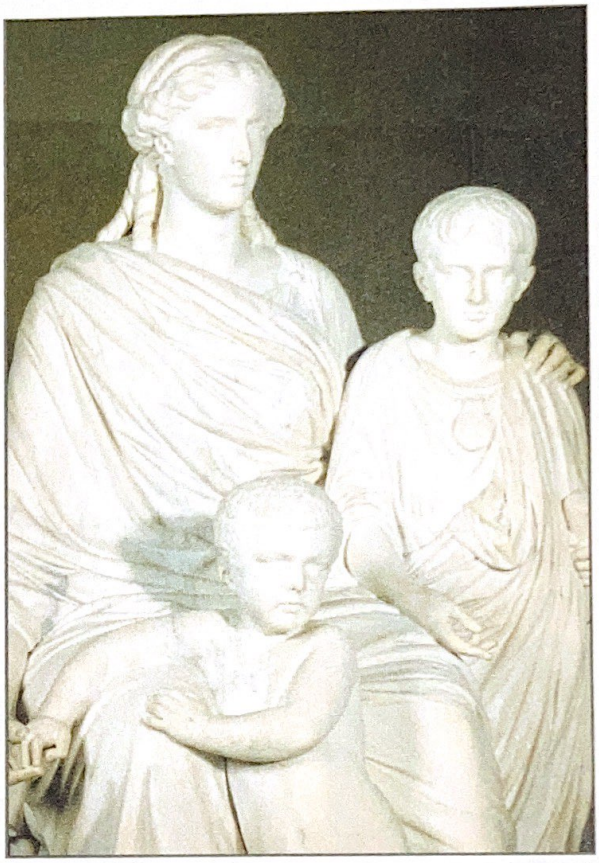
The family of Cornelius traces its lineage far back in Roman history. One of the most distinguished members of the family was Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus, the Roman general who defeated the Carthaginians in North Africa in the Second Punic War (218–201 B.C.). His daughter, Cornelia, was one of the most famous Roman women of all time and was the mother of the Gracchi brothers, who were great social reformers in the second century B.C. As our Cornelia sits under the tree, she is reading about her namesake in a book given to her by Eucleides, and she is wondering whether she too will become as famous as the Cornelia of old.

Cornelia, mother of the Gracchi, pointing to her sons as her treasures
Cornelia, Mother of the Gracchi, *oil on canvas, 1795, Joseph-Benoît Suvée*

Cornelius is responsible for the estate. As father, he is not only master of his own house, but he legally has power of life and death over his household, although he never exercises it. Aurelia runs the household and teaches her daughter what she will need to know when she gets married and has to run her own household. Aurelia and Cornelia do some wool-spinning and weaving but there are a number of slaves to help with the chores.

The family has living with it a twelve-year-old boy, Sextus, who used to live in Pompeii, where his mother died in the eruption of Mount Vesuvius the year before our story begins. Sextus's father is now on service overseas in Asia Minor, and he has left his son in Italy under the guardianship of his friend Cornelius.

Cornelia's friend Flavia lives in a neighboring country house.



Cornelia with her sons Tiberius and Gaius
Sculpture, Pierre-Jules Cavelier

ADDITIONAL READING:
The Romans Speak for Themselves: Book I: "The Family in Roman Society," pages 1–8.