

Indirect Statements – Intro

Direct Statement: e.g. “The enemy are approaching” *hostis appropinquat*

Indirect Statements: e.g. “Then centurion **says that** the enemy are approaching”

centurio dicit hostem oppugnare

The subject of the reported statement is **accusative**, not nominative

The verb of the reported statement is **infinitive**

The word “that” is **not translated in Latin**

Examples

~ Senex dicit [**liberos timere**] accusative, infinitive

The old man said that [the freed men are afraid]

~ Cur [**hunc servum stultum esse**] dicis?

Why do you say that this slave is stupid?

~ nuntius dicit milites nostros nunc bene pugnare

The messenger said that our soldiers are fighting well

Sequence of Tenses

“If the introductory verb is past tense, ...”

[present] is / are	→	was / were
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[perfect] has/have	→	has
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[future] will	→	would
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Examples

~ dominus dicit servos bene laboravisse ← perfect active infin.

The master says that the slaves have worked well

~ dominus **dixit** servos bene laboravisse ← SOT as “dixit” is past – **have** goes to **had**

*The master **said** that the slaves **has** worked well*

Next: see “tense infinitives”