



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Advanced Latin: Caesar

Prose comp exercise

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



www.uwtsd.ac.uk

Prose composition exercise

- The **deadline is now 9 April**: remember that all other deadlines have shifted by two weeks as well!
- You need to translate the equivalent of (slightly less than) half an OCT page back into Latin. You can do either a section from BG 6, or if you have already covered all of the pensum, from another book in the BG.
- Identify a passage/chapter of suitable length in the OCT, and then use an online English translation (e.g. via the Internet Classics Archive or Perseus) as your source text.
- Try to translate the text using vocabulary and stylistic features that we have encountered in Caesar ourselves:

Stylistic features: language

- Think about what constructions we have frequently seen in Caesar so far:
- Ablative absolute at the opening of a chapter:
 - *hac parte Galliae pacata* (6.5.1)
- Time reference at the opening of a chapter:
 - *Cum Caesar in Galliam uenit* (6.12.1); *Caesar, postquam per Ubios...* (6.29.1) etc
- Decision making: *constituit* + inf (*Rhenum transire constituit*, 6.9.2; *constituit non progredi longius*, 6.29.1)
- Relative connection: opening a clause with a relative pronoun
- Stylistically pointed use of indirect and direct speech (cf. discussion in Seminar 2)

Vocabulary

- Begin by trying to use vocab phrases that you have already seen in Caesar yourself
 - Don't be afraid of simplifying a statement: bear in mind that your source translation is in idiomatic English, not "Translatese"
- To really polish your work, double-check that any new words you need to use do occur in Caesar or as near in time to him as possible: use the online ThLL or Lewis-Short to check!

Purpose

- Translating into Latin is a real test of one's command of syntax
- Trying to translate to match a specific author's style will make you more aware of the many options they discard
- Improve your assessment of the author's stylistic choices and underlying reasons

Reverse exercise

- ...and if you find this a fun task, do it in reverse: try to re-write Caesar's words with constructions and phrases he does NOT use
- E.g. pick words noted in the dictionary as mostly used in poetry, or constructions identified as common in Late Antiquity...