



## Chapter 12: Comprehension

### EXERCISE 12.11: HADRIAN'S WALL



Read lines 1-12: ubi Rōmae ... nunc fossās fodimus.

Summarise the story so far.

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1. lines 12-13: 'omnēs incolae, quī prope mūrū habitant, saevissimī sunt.'

What did the soldiers say about the local inhabitants? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

2. lines 13-14: uxōrēs nostrae absunt; necesse est nōbis in oppida īre et invenīre fēminās saevās quās amāre possīmus.

The soldiers said that their wives were not there; what was the consequence of this? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

2. line 15: in hīs oppidīs tabernae sunt malae et incolae vīnum pessimum vēndunt.

What did the soldiers say about the inns in the towns? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

3. lines 15-17: ducēs nostrī mendācēs sunt: iterum et iterum idem dīcunt: 'pecūniā vōbis dabimus!' saepius tamen pecūnia minima nōbis data est.

What lie did the soldiers say their generals repeatedly told them? How was it shown to be a lie?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

4. lines 17-19: 'omnī pecūniā nostrā cōnsūptā, nūllum vīnum, nūllās fēminās emere possumus. hīc, prope hunc mūrū habitantēs et nūllam pecūniā habentēs, miserrimī sumus.'

The soldiers said that they were really miserable. What were the reasons for this? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [3]

5. lines 20-23: aliī hōrum mīlitum epistolās scrīpsērunt: 'frīgidī sumus,' in hīs epistolīs scrīpsērunt. 'mittite igitur ad nōs plūrēs vestēs! necesse est nōbis subligācula nova habēre. semper sunt ventī, semper pluvia; semper frīgidī et miserrimī sumus.'

a. Why did the soldiers ask their families to send them more clothes? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [1]



- b. How does the language used here emphasise how miserable it was for these soldiers to live near Hadrian's wall? You should explain how repetition, word choice, sound or word order creates this emphasis. You should discuss one Latin word or phrase. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

6. lines 24-26: *alii tamen militum alia putabant: quamquam propter frigus pluviamque alii militum miserrimi erant, alii erant laetiores quod putabant murum optimum esse.*

Why were some soldiers happier than the others? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

7. lines 26-28: '*hic murus,*' inquit, '*ae plurimis videbitur. hic murus est longior meliorque quam alii muri. fortasse plurimos annos hic murus in hoc loco manebit. fortasse hic murus in hoc loco manebit diutius quam Romani.*

Identify an aspect of the wall which these soldiers thought was impressive, and explain how the language used emphasises this. You should explain how repetition, word choice, sound or word order creates this emphasis. You should discuss one Latin word or phrase.

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

8. lines 28-30: '*fortasse, ubi omnes Romani mortui erunt, aliae gentes hunc murum videbunt et propter hunc murum poterunt intellegere multa de Romanis.*'

Why did these soldiers think that Hadrian's Wall might be important after the Romans were dead?

\_\_\_\_\_ [3]

9. What does this story tell us about life in Roman Britain at this time? You should consider the perspective of the Romans and the Britons, and support your answer with reference to details from this passage.

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[3]

### Grammar questions

1. lines 24-25: *quamquam propter frīgus pluviāque aliī mīlitum miserrimī erant*

Identify and explain the cases of the 3rd declension nouns *frīgus* and *mīlitum*.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

[2]

2. line 25-26: *aliī erant laetiōrēs quod putābant mūrū optimum esse*

Identify and explain the case of *mūrū* and the form of the verb *esse*. \_\_\_\_\_

[2]

3. line 26: *'hic mūrū,' inquit, 'ā plūrimīs vidēbitur.*

Identify the form of the verb *vidēbitur*. \_\_\_\_\_

[1]