

Exercise B15.4: Turning phrases into clauses: ablative absolute

Each of the sentences below contains an ablative absolute. For each sentence, translate the ablative absolute literally first, and then convert it into a subordinate clause in English, introduced by *when / while / after / since / because / although*.

Each pair of sentences starts with a present tense main verb and is then followed by a sentence with a past tense main verb: notice how the tense of the verb in the English subordinate clause changes when the main verb becomes a past tense.

1. femina resistente, filius non aufertur.
femina resistente, filius non ablatus est.

2. hostibus vulneratis, milites arma colligunt.
hostibus vulneratis, milites arma collegerunt.

3. militibus fugientibus, dux lacrimat.
militibus fugientibus, dux lacrimabat.

4. castris oppressis, captivi effugiunt.
castris oppressis, captivi effugerunt.

5. legionibus ad mare pulsis, princeps desperat.
legionibus ad mare pulsis, princeps desperabat.

6. praemiis promissis, exercitus fortiter pugnat.
praemiis promissis, exercitus fortiter pugnabat.

7. exercitu vehementer oppresso, pauci vivunt.
exercitu vehementer oppresso, pauci vivebant.

8. victoria accepta, princeps scelestus imperium maximum habet.
victoria accepta, princeps scelestus imperium maximum habebat.