

Latin: Ablative absolutes

An ablative absolute is a phrase containing a noun (or pronoun) and a participle agreeing with each other in the ablative case but independent of the rest of the sentence. The ablative absolute phrase gives information about the circumstances in which the main verb action takes place.

e.g. *urbe capta milites discesserunt* = *With the city captured, the soldiers departed.*

There are various ways to translate an ablative absolute:

When the city had been captured, the soldiers departed.

After the city was captured, the soldiers departed.

Further examples:

- 1. duce interfecto, hostes desperabant**
- 2. mercator, clamoribus auditis, e lecto perterritus surrexit**
- 3. custodibus dormientibus, captivi effugerunt**
- 4. domino egresso, servi non iam laboraverunt**
- 5. die illucescente, navis in portum navigavit**