Ars scribendi Latine,
or, Aids to Latin prose composition

by

Bickerton Augustus Edwards

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ARS SCRIBENDI LATINÈ
ARS SCRIBENDI LATINE

OR

AIDS TO LATIN PROSE COMPOSITION

IN THE FORM OF

AN ANALYSIS OF LATIN IDIOMS

BY

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PREFACE.

The Author ventures to hope that the following Analysis of Idioms will be of use to the classical student as an aid to Latin Composition.

The difficulties of Latin Prose are chiefly due to a slight apprehension of Idioms. It is no sooner found that many modes of English expression can be rendered into one Latin Idiom, than Latin writing becomes comparatively an easy task. A student furnished with an ordinary Latin vocabulary and a schoolboy's knowledge of Latin Grammar has only to learn and appreciate the Idioms of Composition.

A command of Idioms is necessary in order that the translator may shun barbarisms on the one hand, and on the other may attain a sort of elegance. Even where the English and the Latin are at one, it is better to translate the English into a dissimilar Latin Idiom. An English Abstract Substantive, for example, can sometimes be translated, on the authority of Cicero, into a Latin Abstract Substantive; but its translation into a Latin Verb in the Present or Perfect Tense Infinitive points to a less obvious comparison.
Preface.

A Practical Analysis of Latin Idioms arranged in lucid order has been the Author's aim, and the series of Idiomatic Rules and Examples submitted in these pages may in some measure supply a want felt both in Schools and Universities. The small volume can lay claim to no higher title than that of 'Outlines' designed for the special purpose of correcting a common and fatal fault, that of clothing English Idioms in Latin words. An exhaustive treatise on a subject at once fruitful and rich in interest remains to be written by some abler scholar.

δei γαρ ισως ὑποτυπώσαι πρῶτον, τίθ' ἕτερον ἀναγράψαι.

The 'Idiomatic Examples' should be used as Models. They are quoted for the most part from authors of the golden age of Latinity, from Cæsar, Cicero, and Cornelius Nepos.

B. A. E.

Senny Bridge, Brecon:
May 1876.
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ARS SCRIBENDI LATINE.

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*B*
IDIOMATIC RULES.

I.—NOUN.

GENITIVE-IDIOMS.

(a) Eng. Adjective = Lat. subst. in the gen. case dependent on 'esse' either expressed or understood.

(β) Eng. Transitive Verb and its object = Lat. subst. in the gen. case dependent on 'esse.'

(γ) Eng. Transitive Verb and its subject = Lat. subst. in the gen. case dependent on 'esse.'

(δ) Eng. Subst. qualified by an adj. or its equivalent = Lat. subst. in the gen. case dependent on another subst.

(ε) Eng. Verb followed by a preposition and object = Lat. subst. in the gen. case dependent on the subject of Eng. verb,
IDIOMATIC EXAMPLES.

I.—NOUN.

GENITIVE-IDIOMS.

(a)  
It is very difficult to persuade a great man,  
*Suadere principi multi laboris.*

(β)  
These doings exceed your ability,  
*Hoc vestri ingenii non sunt.*

(γ)  
Every season assigns a duty,  
*Cujusque temporis est officium.*

(δ)  
They caused Ionia to forsake her Athenian allies,  
*Ioniam a societate Atheniensium averterunt.*

(ε)  
Injuries inflicted on Roman knights who had been kept in bonds,  
*Injurio retentorum equitum Romanorum.*
Idiomatic Rules.

(§)
Eng. Abstract Subst. = Lat. adj. in the gen. case-qualified by an adj.
dependent on neut. pron. interr.

(η)
Eng. Concrete Subst. = Lat. relat. of neut. gender-
qualified by a poss. and subst. in the gen.
pron. or its equivalent case.

(θ)
Eng. Verb with an = Lat. adj. in the gen. case
adverb or adverbial dependent on 'esse.'
phrase = 'quantity,'
'degree,' &c.

(ι)
Eng. Verb and its object = Lat. subst. in the gen. case
dependent on another subst. in the nom. or accus.

(κ)
Eng. Adj. or Adjectival = Lat subst. in the gen.
Clause case qualified by an adj.

(λ)
Eng. Subst. in the nom. = Lat. subst. in the gen.
case or the objective case dependent on
followed by a verb in another subst.
the infin. mood
Idiomatic Examples.

(ξ)
He enquired whether any good fortune had befallen them,
Quasivit num quid secundi evenisset.

(η)
All the garments he possessed he took with him,
Id quod vestimentorum fuit sumpsit.

(θ)
His service availed little,
Ejus opera parvi fuit.

(ι)
They were disposed to share the danger,
Ad societatem periculi adducebantur.

(κ)
Cæsar did very great and magnanimous deeds,
Cæsar maximas gessit res et maximi animi.

(λ)
It would have been better if he had left them something to choose,
Satius fuisse si aliquem rerum delectum reliquisset.
Idiomatic Rules.

(\(\mu\))
Eng. Prepositions (e.g. 'in,' 'for,' 'concerning,' 'in respect of,' 'on account of,' 'in reference to,' &c.) and their dependent words = Lat. genitive idiom without a preposition.

(\(\nu\))

(\(\xi\))
Eng. statements 'quâ 'duty,' 'character,' 'property,' 'communion,' and the like = Lat. subst. in the gen. case dependent on 'esse.'

(\(\omicron\))
Eng. Subst. with an adj. = Lat. subst. in the gen. case plural dependent on another subst. which = Eng. adj.
Idiomatic Examples.

(μ)

In engagements good faith should be observed,
*Rerum contractarum fides servanda est.*

It is a struggle for honour and rank,
*Certamen honoris et dignitatis est.*

Such is the difference between honour and propriety,
*Ejusmodi est differentia honesti et decori.*

There are limits to punishment,
*Est puniendi modus.*

Relief from anxieties,
*Requies curarum.*

Fairness in war,
*Belli æquitas.*

(ν)

Caius, who was unaccustomed to be evil spoken of, took it to heart,
*Caius, insuetus malè audiendi, graviter ferebat.*

(ξ)

It was not the duty of the soldiers but of their commander to judge in the matter,
*Judicium non militum sed imperatoris erat.*

(o)

It pertains to the final good,
*Pertinet ad finem bonorum.*
Idiomatic Rules.

(π)
Eng. Subst. with an adj. = Lat. subst. in the gen.
case dependent on another subst.

(ρ)
Eng. Subst., subject of a pass. verb = Lat. subst. in the gen.
case dependent on another subst. in the nom. or accus. case
(which = Eng. pass. verb).

(σ)
Eng. Subst., subject of a verb qualified by an adverb = Lat. subst. in the gen.
case dependent on a neut. adj. which = Eng. adverb.

(τ)
Eng. Substantival Clause = Lat. subst. in the gen.
case dependent on another subst. in the nom. or the accus.
**Idiomatic Examples.**

(π)

Intellectual pursuits,  
*Studia cogitationis.*

A mistaken opinion,  
*Opinionis error.*

Social life,  
*Vita societas.*

To exercise refined literary taste,  
*Exquisito judicio uti literarum.*

(ρ)

They suffered many crimes to go unpunished,  
*Multorum impunitates scelerum tulerunt.*

(σ)

To them attention is chiefly due,  
*Iis plurimum tribendum est officii.*

(τ)

Rhetoricians teach men how to debate,  
*Contentionis pracepta sunt rhetorum.*
Idiomatic Rules.

(v)
Eng. Subst. expressive = Lat. adverbial equivalent.
of quantity followed by a genitive

DATIVE-IDIOMS.

(a)
Eng. Abstract Subst. = Lat. adj. in the dative case with an impersonal verb.

(§)
Eng. Transitive Verb and its object = Two Lat. subst. in the dative case dependent on ‘esse.’

(γ)
Eng. Subst. in the nom. case = Lat. subst. in the dative case dependent on ‘esse.’

(δ)
Eng. Verb having two objects, of which the remoter is qualified by a preposition = Lat. verb with an accusative of the nearer and a dative of the remoter object.

(ε)
Eng. Adverbial Clause = Lat. double dative construction, one of the datives expressing a ‘purpose,’ or a ‘consequence,’ or the like.
Idiomatic Examples.

(v)
A flood of fables,
Abundè fabularum.

DATIVE-IDIOMS.

(a)
Happiness is possible,
Licet esse beatis.

(β)
No state, except Platæa, succoured Athens,
Nulla civitas Atheniensibus auxilio fuit præter Platæenses.

(γ)
Dion had nothing to fear at the hands of Plato,
Nihil a Platone periculi erat Dioni.

(δ)
Cæsar set guards over Dumnorix,
Cæsar Dumnorigi custodes ponit.

(ε)
He sent an army to aid our men,
Aciem nostris subsidio misit.
Idiomatic Rules.

(§) Eng. statements qua 'fullness' or 'want' = Lat. subst. in the dative case dependent on 'esse' or 'deesse.'

(η) Eng. Subst. in the poss. case qualifying either the subject or object of the verb = Lat. subst. in the dative case.

(θ) Eng. statements expressive of 'blame' = Lat. two datives, one of the person, the other of the thing, dependent on 'dare' or 'vertere.'

(ι) Eng. Subst. in the nom. case, the subject of a verb = Lat. subst. in the dative case dependent on 'esse,' whose subject is a subst. = the Eng. verb.

(ε) Eng. Adjective = Lat. subst. in the dative case dependent on 'esse.'

Ablative-Idioms.

(α) Eng. Pass. or Neut. Verb followed by an adverbial phrase or its equivalent

= Lat subst. in the ablat. case with 'esse,' and qualified by an adj.
Idiomatic Examples.

(ξ)
Traders have no access to them,
Nullus aditus ad eos mercatoribus.

(η)
The hopes of the Gallic fleet lay in its sails,
Gallicis navibus spes in velis consistebat.
Sabinus became an object of the enemy’s contempt,
Hostibus in contemptionem venit Sabinus.

(θ)
The rest would have been blamed,
Vitio datum esset ceteris.

(ι)
The good struggle in behalf of virtue alone,
Bonis pro honestate omnis est contentio.

(κ)
And these things may be requisite.
Quæ usui possunt esse.

Ablative-Idioms.

(α)
He was honoured among them as a king,
Erat inter eos dignitate regis.
He was highly favoured,
Magnà erat gratià.
Idiomatic Rules.

(β)
Eng. Subst. in the possessive case dependent on another subst. = Lat. subst. in the ablat. case qualified by an adj.

(γ)
Eng. Adverbial Clauses (e.g. Temporal, Causal, Conditional, Concessive, Modal) = Lat. ablat. case absolute.

(δ)
Eng. Subordinate Clause = Lat. past part. pass., in the ablative absolute, with an adjectival or a substantival clause as its subject.
Idiomatic Examples.

(8)
At the close of the Peloponnesian war,
*Extremo Peloponnesio bello.*

(7)
They set out under the command of Pisander,
*Proficiscuntur Pisandro duce.*

Because Calvus besought them not to do so,
*Calvo deprecatore.*

Lucilius rides up at full speed,
*Lucilius equo admisso accurrit.*

He replied that terms were possible only on the condition that they should surrender arms,
*Renunciatum est nullam esse conditionem nisi traditis armis.*

But, if Atreus be the speaker, there is applause,
*At, Atreo dicente, plausus excitantur.*

Although Nature herself be our mistress and guide,
*Naturâ ipsâ magistrâ et duce.*

On the authority of Cratippus,
*Cratippo auctore.*

(8)
You may begin since you have attained what you desired,
*Incipias parto quod avebas.*

Because he had heard that the king was setting out for Dover,
*Audito regem Doroberniam proficisci.*
Idiomatic Rules.

(ε)
Eng. Adj. qualified by an adverb or Eng. subst. in possessive case qualified by an adj. = Lat. subst. in the ablat. case qualified by an adj.

(ζ)
Eng. Subst. with possessive pronoun or other attributive = Lat. subst. in the ablat. case with a rel. pronoun and 'esse.'

(η)
Eng. Subst., in the nom. case, with the word 'such' or the like, or Eng. adj. with the word 'so' or the like = Lat. subst., in the ablat. case qualified by a rel., and dependent on 'esse' or pass. verb.

(θ)
Eng. Adverbial Phrase = Lat. subst. in the ablat. case.
(α)
Certain men who were very daring and exceedingly strong,
Quidam cùm audacissimi tum viribus maximis.

(ζ)
Concealing his feelings towards the king,
Celans quâ voluntate esset in regem.

(η)
Such was the spirit of Ajax that he would have preferred death,
Ajax, quo animo erat, oppetere mortem maluisset.

(θ)
As Persians do,
More Persarum.
II.—VERB.

INFINITIVE-IDIOMS.

(a) Eng. Subst. = Lat. verb in the infin. mood present tense, passive voice.

(β) Eng. Verb Act., infin. mood, present tense or its substantival equivalent = Lat. verb pass. in the same mood and tense.

(γ) Eng. Subst. or substantival phrase = Lat. verb act. or neut., infin. mood, present tense.


II.—VERB.

INFINITIVE-IDIOMS.

(a) He thought nothing would be more profitable than the consolidation of Persian rule, \textit{Nihil putabat utilius quàm confirmari regnum Persarum}.

(b) It is a breach of duty to prefer the greater to the less, \textit{Contra officium est majus anteponi minori}.

(γ) To be the victim of deceit is as unbecoming as madness, \textit{Decipi tam dedecet quàm delirare}.

(δ) He conveyed his wishes to him in writing, \textit{Quae volebat huic scripta tradidit}.
Some have left it on record that he perished, \textit{Nonnulli eum periisse scriptum reliquerunt}.

(ε) To disapprove is a difficult thing to do, \textit{Difficile factu est non probare}.
It would be easy for any man to comprehend it, \textit{Cuivis facile intellectu est}.
Idiomatic Rules.

\((\xi)\)
Eng. Final Clause after verbs of motion = Lat. supine in \textit{um}.

\textit{Gerunds, &c.}

\((\alpha)\)
Eng. Statements expressive of Necessity = Part. in \textit{dus} used personally or impersonally.

\((\beta)\)
Eng. Statements expressive of Purpose = Part. in \textit{dus} after \textit{curo}, \textit{suscipio}, \textit{recipio}.

\((\gamma)\)
Eng. Statements expressive of Duty = Part. in \textit{dus} used impersonally.

\((\delta)\)
Eng. Word or Clause expressive of Futurity = Part. in \textit{dus} in agreement with a subst. and dependent on a preposition.

\((\epsilon)\)
Eng. Verb in the Infin. Mood, or the substantival equivalent of the infinitive = Part. in \textit{dus} with subst.
Idiomatic Examples.

(§)
And they met to congratulate Cæsar,

 Qui Cæsarem gratulatum convenerunt.

Gerunds, &c.

(a)
With whom a pitched battle must be fought,

Cum quibus est dimicandum.

(β)
He undertook the bearing of it,

Id ferendum curavit.

He gives him in charge to Mithridates that he may be

brought before the king,

Ad regem ducendum tradit Mithridati.

(γ)
He considered that he ought to arrange for provisions,

Rei frumentaria prospiciendum existimavit.

He held that it is not a duty to keep such promises,

Judicavit illis promissis standum non esse.

(δ)
Before the city was founded or its foundation contemplated,

Ante conditam condendamque urbem.

(ε)
One is concerned with kindesses to be conferred, the

other with kindesses to be returned,

Unum dandi beneficii alterum reddendi.
Idiomatic Rules.

(ζ)
qualified by a preposition, an adjective, or another subst.

Future Participle.

(α)

(β)
Eng. Statements expressive of Doom, Destiny, Fate = Lat. fut. participle.

(γ)
Idiomatic Examples.

(ξ)
Requisites of a happy life,
Quae sint ad beatè vivendum necessaria.
He has no time for delay,
Morandi tempus non habet.
Lest delay should be mistaken for denial,
Ne differendo videretur negare.
Eager to go to war,
Bellandi cupidus.
He finds that the conspiracy was caused thus,
Certior factus est conjurandi has esse causas.
Bravery in battle,
Decertandi fortitudo.
Such evil habits are to be avoided,
Quod genus peccandi vitandum est.
Equal to payment (or) able to pay,
Par solvendo.
Companions in their defence of the commonwealth,
Socii tuenda reipublica.

Future Participle.

(α)
They purposed fighting a naval battle,
Classe erant decertaturi.

(β)
O Delius, doomed to die,
Moriture Deli!

(γ)
What appears likely to be hurtful,
Ea quae nocitura videantur.
Idiomatic Rules.

Impersonal-Idioms.

\[(a)\]
Eng. Verb of Motion, of act. form, infin. mood, used personally

= Lat. verb of motion, of pass. form, finite or infinitive mood, used impersonally.

\[(\beta)\]
Eng. Abstract Subst. or a substantival or adverbial phrase

= Lat. verb neut. pass. used impersonally with a dative case or without.

\[(\gamma)\]
Eng. Substantive (as subject of a cognate verb pass. or object of a cognate verb act.) or its equivalent

= Lat. verb pass. used impersonally in some cases with, in other cases without, a preposition.
Idiomatic Examples.

Impersonal-Idioms.

(a)
They became so distressed,
*Ed necessitatis ventum est.*
Their favour had been regained,
*Cum iis in gratiam reditum erat.*

(β)
It was their conviction that he had occasioned the accident,
*Iis erat persuasum accidisse ejus operis.*
They received an answer,
*His responsum est.*
As they were commanded,
*Ut erat imperatum.*

(γ)
Let a man's reward be according to his deserts,
*Pro dignitate cuique tribuatur.*
Fearing that resistance would be less easy,
*Ne minus facile resisti posset.*
Objections are raised even by learned men who ask,
*Occurrat et quidem a doctis quaerentibus.*
Had my orders been obeyed all would be well,
*Si mihi esset obtemperatum, bene esset.*
It was a cavalry battle,
*Praelio equestri contendebatur.*
The battle was long and fierce,
*Diu atque acriter pugnatum est.*
And these facts are illustrations,
*Ex quibus intelligitur.*
(δ)  
Eng. Verb Active = Lat. verb passive used impersonally.

(i)  
Two Eng. Personal Verbs which are interdependent = Two Lat. verbs impersonal, the one pass. in form, the other active.

(ζ)  
Eng. Subst. and Predicate = Lat. verb pass. present tense infin. mood, used impersonally.
Idiomatic Examples.

Those amongst whom we live,
Quibuscum vivitur.
We are now to treat the subject of liberality,
Deinceps de liberalitate dicatur.
If there be a fault,
Si quid delinquitur.
They seek out the wrong deed,
Quid peccatum sit exquirunt.
Care must be taken that we do no wrong,
Cavendum est ne quid peccetur.

Plato has written,
Scriptum est a Platone.
Men have ceased to consider any treatment of our allies
unjust,
Desitum est videri quidquam in socios iniquum.
That we may see the importance of that affair,
Ut animadvertatur quanta illa res sit.
If he should see that they had the audacity to cope with
him,
Si animadverteret auderi adversus se dimicare.

He brought back word that they ought not to tarry,
Renunciavit expectari non oportere.
They determined to enter the camp,
Iri in castra placuit.

An entrance was impracticable,
Quod intrari non poterat.
Idiomatic Rules.

(η) Eng. Verb Pass. Indic. qualified by an adverb = Lat. verb pass. infinit. used impersonally, with an impersonal verb of active form.

(θ) Eng. Verb Act. qualified by an adverbial phrase = Lat. verb pass. infinit. dependent on an impersonal verb of active form.

(ι) Two Eng. Personal Verbs (of which the latter = a subst. in the objective case) = Lat. verb pass. infinit. mood dependent on an impersonal verb of active form.

(κ) Two Eng. Impersonal verbs, the one act., the other pass. = Lat. act. verb infinit. mood dependent on a verb impersonal.

(λ) Two Eng. Personal Verbs of which the latter is transitive = Lat. transitive verb dependent on an impersonal verb.

(μ) Eng. verb pass. used impersonally = Lat. verb neuter used impersonally.

(ν) Eng. Verb Act. having as subject a substantival clause = Lat. verb neuter used impersonally.
Idiomatic Examples.

(η)
A statement which is generally impugned by bad men,
*In quod invadi solet ab improbis.*

(θ)
A fact which an expert, as a rule, observes,
*Quod a sciente animadverteri solet.*

(i)
He determined to send the Lacedæmonian,
*Placebat Laconem mitti.*

(κ)
It can be seen even in their countenances,
*Licet ora ipsa cernere.*

(λ)
We wish to give a definition of duty,
*Placet definire quid sit officium.*

(μ)
It is admitted,
*Constat.*

(ν)
How he succeeded we cannot discover,
*Quid ratione consecutus sit latet.*
Idiomatic Rules.

(§)
Eng. Subst. and Verb or verbal phrase = Lat. verb act. dependent on an impersonal verb.

(ο)
Eng. Personal Verb = Lat. impersonal verb with a preposition.

(π)
Eng. Statements (expressive of 'dissatisfaction,' 'regret,' &c.) made in personal form = Lat. impersonal construction with 'pœnitet.'

(ρ)
Eng. Statements (expressive of 'shame,' 'disgrace,' &c.) made in personal form = Lat. impersonal construction with 'pudet.'

(σ)
Eng. Statements (expressive of 'interest,' 'concernment,' &c.) made in personal form = Lat. impersonal construction with 'interest.'
Idiomatice Examples.

(ξ)
Your prayers to the gods are unavailing,
*Te nihil attinet tentare deos.*

(o)
They cannot agree,
*Inter eos nihil convenit.*

(π)
That you be not dissatisfied with your progress,
*Ne te quantum proficias pœniteat.*

(ρ)
Such recitations are disgraceful,
*Hæc scripta pudet recitare.*

(σ)
You will gain by so doing,
*Tud interest ut id facias.*