

*Floret qui laborat.*¹



First Conjugation: Past Perfect or Pluperfect Tense

Latin Without Tears page 90b (on Volume 6 of the *Mothers' Companion*) introduces the Past Perfect or Pluperfect tense. Notice that in English this simply involves putting in the word “had” before the verb in the past tense, e.g. “I had run,” “you had thought,” and so on. A colouring sheet setting out the tense in full is on Volume 7 of the *Mothers' Companion* under “Verb resources files.” Use this sheet to learn to chant this tense and add it to your daily chanting practice.

Two new first conjugation verbs for your notebook. I have chosen some Bible examples that demonstrate the Past Perfect tense.

Vocare (voc-CAR-ay) to call

Bible example:

*Cum autem id vidisset Phariaeus qui **vocaverat** eum, dixit apud se,*

“Hic, si esset propheta, nosset quae et qualis sit ea mulier quae tangit ipsum, quod videlicet sit peccatrix.”

Luke 7:39 Beza's translation.

We are in the house of a Pharisee and a sinful woman has come in with her alabaster box of ointment. I am sure you know the story. There are many words here that you can guess and quite a few that you know. See if you can write the meanings of most words over the text after you have looked it up.

I have set it out below with an easier word order and plenty of space for you to write on:

*Cum, autem, Phariaeus qui **vocaverat** eum vidisset id,*

dixit apud se,

“Hic, si esset propheta,

nosset quae et qualis mulier ea sit quae tangit ipsum,

quod sit videlicet peccatrix.” (Answer on last page.)

¹ He who labours (i.e. works hard) flourishes. Motto of the Ross family.

laborare (lab-or-ARE-ay) to work

Bible example:

Dedi itaque vobis terram in qua non laboraveras, et civitates quas non exstruxeratis, in quibus habitatis: vinetis et olivetis, quae non plantaveratis, fruimini. Joshua 24:13 Tremellius' translation.

There are three verbs in the past perfect tense in this text. Can you spot them all? What is the slight difference between the first one and the others? What tense is *habitatis*? Answers on the last page. The tenses make it clear that something is happening now but something had *not* happened in the past.

Fruimini means “you (plural) enjoy.” You will probably need to look this text up but you will find many words with related words in English.

Answer:

When, however, the Pharisee who had called him saw it, he said within himself
Cum, autem, Phariaeus qui vocaverat eum vidisset id, dixit apud se,

“This man if he was a prophet, would know what and what kind of
“*Hic, si esset propheta, nosset quae et qualis*

woman she is who touches himself
mulier ea sit quae tangit ipsum,

because she is clearly a sinner.”
quod sit videlicet peccatrix.”

laboraveras, exstruxeratis, plantaveratis.

You can see from the endings that

non laboraveras is “you **singular** (thou) had not laboured”

but

non exstruxeratis is “you **plural** had not built”

and

non plantaveratis is “you **plural** had not planted.”

Habitatis is present tense, “you (plural) live.”