

Virgil Extracts 2

Lines 222-235. Aeneas and his crew have just landed on the Strophades islands. Feeling very hungry they are delighted to see peaceful flocks and herds grazing – and no one about to look after them. But Virgil has already told us who lives on these islands ...

inruimus ferro et divos ipsumque vocamus

in partem praedamque Iovem; tum litore curvo

exstruimusque toros dapibusque epulamur opimis.

at subitae horrifico lapsu de montibus adsunt

Harpyiae et magnis quatiunt clangoribus alas,

diripiuntque dapes contactuque omnia foedant

immundo; tum vox taetrum dira inter odorem.

rursum in secessu longo sub rupe cavata

arboribus clausam circum atque horrentibus umbris

instruimus mensas arisque reponimus ignem;

rursum ex diverso caeli caecisque latebris

turba sonans praedam pedibus circumvolat uncis,

polluit ore dapes. sociis tunc arma capessant

edico, et dira bellum cum gente gerendum.

Now for the translation. Spot the verbs first if you can.

inruimus *ferro*

inruere “to rush”, (*-imus* still in the present tense) “to attack”, “to fall on”
ferrum “iron” and so “sword” – *ferro* is ablative.

Have a go at this and then look at my attempt on the next page.

We fall on [them] with [our] swords

et divos ipsumque Iovem vocamus

You know *vocare*; *divus*, *ipse*; and *iupiter*, *iovem* by now.

in partem praedamque

pars, *partis* and *praeda*, *praedae* are on the syllabus vocabulary list. *In partem praedamque* can be freely translated “to a share in the spoil.” This is a figure of speech called **hendiadys** where one idea is presented by means of two seemingly independent ideas connected by “and” (*que*).

See over the page when you've tried these lines.

And call/invite the gods and Jupiter himself to a share in the plunder.

(A feast or any meal was usually begun with an offering to the gods. This is what is implied here. In the event, this invitation is answered not by Jupiter and his fellow deities but by some quite different non-human creatures!)



tum litore curvo exstruimusque toros

curvo goes with *litore* and the phrase shows where the action happens (see the picture)

extruere “to build up” “to construct”

torus, tori “an embankment”, “a mound”. This is a couch of turf. As you will know from reading the New Testament, the Romans did not sit but reclined on couches at their meals. on which the companions hope to recline while feasting.

epulamur opimis dapibusque.

Epulari “to feast” is deponent so although the *-mur* ending looks passive it is active.

Daps, dapis is a feast or banquet. It can mean a sacrificial, solemn or religious feast. *Opimus* “rich”.

Translate as well as you can, then check over the page.

Then on the curved shore we build a mound and feast on the rich banquet.

at subitae (horrifico lapsu de montibus) Harpyiae adsunt

Adsum you know (it is on the syllabus vocab. List) here it means “arrive”. *Subitae* = *subito*. *lapsus, lapsi* is “a fall” or “descent”. Can you do the rest? My version is on the next page.

But suddenly, with a horrible descent from the mountains, the Harpies arrive.

Notice that we had to take *Harpyiae* from the next line to make sense. This carrying over of the sense from one line to the next is called enjambment – a poetic term for the continuation of a sentence or phrase from one line of poetry to the next.

Virgil uses enjambment here to create suspense: we do not know what has arrived until the following line.

et **quatiunt** *alas magnis clangoribus*,
Quatere “to shake” “to flap”, *ala* “wing” first declension.

diripiunt *que dapes que foedant omnia immundo contactu* (guess)
diripere “to lay waste” *foedare* “to foul” *immundus* “filthy”

tum vox dira inter taetrum odorem (guess).
Dira “horrible” *taeter* “foul”

Have a go and then look at my attempt on the next page.

They flap their wings with great crashes and lay waste the feast and foul everything with their filthy touch. Then [there is] a horrible voice among the foul smell.

Notice that to get the sense I have changed the word order. It should be:

*diripiuntque dapes contactuque omnia foedant
immundo; tum vox taetrum dira inter odorem.*

This “muddling” of the word order is a deliberate device on Virgil's part. Called **Synchysis**, it is a **rhetorical technique** wherein words are intentionally scattered about in the line to create bewilderment, or for some other purpose. Here it is to give us the feeling of the chaos of sound and smell that is happening.

Rursum, in secessu longo sub rupe cavata

rursum “again” *secessus* “retirement” *rupes* “rock” *cavatus* “hollowed out”

clausam circum arboribus atque horrentibus umbris

horrens “trembling” *umbra* “shadow”

instruimus *mensas* *que* ***reponimus*** *aris ignem;*

instruere “arrange” *ara* “altar” *reponere* “restore”

Have a go and then look at my attempt on the next page.

Again, in deep retirement under a hollowed out rock closed around with trees and trembling leaves, we arrange the tables and restore the altar fire.

(*reponimus aris ignem*. This refers back to the invitation to the gods and Jupiter himself to join the feast and the custom of beginning a feast or meal with a sacrifice to the gods. It is all in vain though because...)

rursum, ex diverso caeli que latebris caecis

diversus “different” *latebra* “lair” *caecus* “unseen”

turba sonans circum-volat praedam pedibus uncis

turba is on the syllabus vocabulary list you can guess *circumvolat*. *Praedam* and *uncis* we've had before. *Sonans* literally “resounding” so “noisy”

polluit ore dapes.

Have a go and then look at my attempt on the next page.

Again from a different part of the sky and an unseen lair the noisy crowd fly around the prey with taloned feet polluting the feast with [their] mouths.

Notice how Virgil repeats *rursum* “again”

(This is more than Aeneas can stand and he takes action...)

sociis tunc arma capessant edico,

Edicere “tell” or “order”, like a magistrate. *Tunc* “then”. *Socius* and *arma* are on the syllabus vocabulary list. *Capessere* “to sieze” or “to snatch up”

et dira gente cum bellum gerendum.

Gens and *bellum gero* (under gero) are on the syllabus vocabulary list.

Have a go and then look at my attempt on the next page.

Then I order my companions to seize their weapons and wage war on the horrible race.
(A mistake!)

Remember: you must **learn** the translation of your set passages. You must be able to remember the translation when you see the Latin. Use your flashcards to test yourself. I have put a set of flashcards up on Quizlet here:
<https://quizlet.com/gb/437240704/virgil-aeneid-book-6-igcse-latin-0480-set-book-2020-2022-flash-cards/>
which you can use if you prefer this to making your own cards.

Check the new words against the vocabulary listed on the syllabus. Add words to your vocabulary notebook as necessary.