

Rex, ubi ōrāculi responsum audīvit, diū sēcum lacrimābat. “ Est mihi domi,” inquit, “ filia cāra, Īphigeneia nōmine, sēdecim annōrum puella. Sine dubio Diāna Īphigeneiam victimam petit. Dīra et crūdēlis est Dea ; sed nōn sine dīs immortālibus ad urbem Trōiam nāvigābimus, et Helenam ex urbe perfidā domum reportābimus.” Nuntium igitur ad Clytaemnestram, uxōrem suam, mīsit. “ Ō Rēgīna,” inquit, “ fīliam nostram ad nuptias ornā, et cum fīdis custōdibus ad portum mitte. Achillēs, vir fortis et praeclārus, virginem in mātrimōnium dūcet.” Clytaemnestra, ubi rēgis dicta audīvit, magno gaudio fīliam ad nuptias parāvit ; gemmis pretiōsis, vestīmentis pictis, puellam ornāvit, et tandem cum fīdis custōdibus ad portum mīsit.

**Achillēs, -is, m.**—Achilles, a Greek hero, who fought at Troy.

**audio, 4**—I hear.

**Clytaemnestra, -ae, f.**—Clytaemnestra, wife of Agamemnon.

**custōs, -ōdis, c.**—guard, sentinel.

**dubium, -i, n.**—doubt.

**fīdus, -a, -um**—faithful.

**gemma, -ae, f.**—jewel.

**immortālis, -e**—immortal.

**mātrimōnium, -i, n.**—marriage.

**nuptiae, -ārum, f. pl.**—marriage.

**pretiōsus, -a, -um**—precious.

**sēdecim**—sixteen.

Before translating this passage revise your prepositions with this list:

<http://www.csun.edu/~hcfl1004/prepsumm.html>. Notice that some prepositions take (= are followed by a noun, pronoun or adjective in) the accusative and some take the **ablative**. Look out for prepositions that take the ablative in this passage.

On the same site also is a useful list of Latin numbers: <http://www.csun.edu/~hcfl1004/latin-numbers.html> you need to know cardinal numbers 1 to 100, 500, 1000, and ordinals 1st to 10<sup>th</sup> for IGCSE.

*Est mihi* literally “there is to me” just means “I have”.

The phrase *in matrimonium ducere* (literally “to lead in marriage”) means “to marry” and can be found in parish registers if you are doing family history research!

Have a go at translating and then compare with my attempt on the next page.

The king, when he heard the reply of the oracle, cried with/to himself for a long time. “I have at home” he said, “a dear daughter called Iphigenia a girl of sixteen years (i.e. a sixteen year old girl). Without doubt Diana is asking [for] Iphigenia [as] the victim. Dreadful and cruel is the goddess; but we will not sail to the city of Troy without the immortal gods. We will bring back home Helen from the treacherous city of Troy. He therefore sent a message to Clytemnestra his wife. “O Queen,” he said, “deck our daughter for marriage and send [her] with faithful guards to the port. Achilles, a brave and famous man, will marry the maid.” Clytemnestra, when she heard the king's words, prepared [her] daughter for the marriage with great joy; she decked the girl with precious gems, [and] coloured clothes and at length send [her] with faithful guards to the port.

You will have to wait until next year to find out what happens to Iphigenia! – unless of course you remember from your summer holiday reading...