

IN Graeciā frātrēs duo, Agamemnōn et Menelāus nōmine, ōlim habitābant. Graeci frātrēs Atrīdās vocābant, quod Atrēi fīlii erant. Agamemnōn omnium Argīvōrum rex erat. Menelāus Lacedaemonios regēbat. Helenē, uxor Menelāi, praeclāra et formōsa rēgīna, cum viro in rēgiā multos annos habitābat. Sed tandem Paris, Trōiānōrum princeps, ad hospitium Menelāi vēnit. Perfidus et ignāvus erat hospes, sed pictis vestīmentis, nitidis capillis fulgēbat. Diū in rēgiā manēbat, et grātus rēgīnae animo erat hospes formōsus. Tandem nocte obscūrā Helenam furtim raptāvit et in nāvem imposuit. Vēla candida ventis secundis dedit, et trans mare ad urbem Trōiam properāvit.

Agamemnōn, -onis, m.—Agamemnon, king of Argos.

Argīvus, -i, m.—Argive, native of Argos.

Atrēus, -i, m.—Atreus, father of Agamemnon and Menelaus.

Atrīdae, -ārum, m. pl.—sons of Atreus.

Graecia, -ae, f.—Greece.

Helenē, -ēs, f.—Helen of Troy, wife of Menelaus.

hospes, -itis, c.—guest, host.

hospitium, -i, n.—hospitality.

Iphigeneia, -ae, f.—Iphigeneia, daughter of Agamemnon.

Lacedaemonius, -i, m.—a Lacedaemonian, Spartan.

Menelāus, -i, m.—Menelaus, king of Sparta.

nitidus, -a, -um—shining.

nox, noctis, f.—night.

obscurus, -a, -um—dark, dim.

Paris, -idis, m.—Paris, a prince of Troy.

perfidus, -a, -um—treacherous.

pictus, -a, -um—painted, embroidered.

rēgia, -ae, f.—palace.

Trōia, -ae, f.—Troy, a town at the entrance to the Dardanelles.

Trōiānus, -i, m.—a Trojan.

venio, 4, vēni, ventum—I come.

vestīmentum, -i, n.—dress, garment.

Take care with case endings of the nouns in this passage. Make a translation and then compare with my attempt on the next page.

In Greece once lived two brothers named Agamemnon and Menelaus. The Greeks called the brothers "Atridae" because they were the sons of Atreus. Agamemnon was king of all the Argives. Menelaus ruled the Spartans. Helen, wife of Menelaus, a famous and beautiful queen, lived for many years with (her) husband in the palace. But at length, Paris, Prince of Troy, came to the hospitality of Menelaus. The guest was treacherous and lazy but he glittered with embroidered garments and shining hair. He remained at the palace a long while. The beautiful guest was pleasing to the mind of the queen. At length by dark night he secretly snatched up Helen and put her in (his) ship. He gave the white sails to the following wind and rushed across the sea to Troy city.