

Itaque magnā spē Īphigeneia ad castra Graecōrum vēnit. Simul āc rēgem vīdit, tum cito ad patrem cucurrit, et collo cāro bracchia candida dedit. Sed ubi maestum rēgis vultum vīdit, “Cūr,” inquit, “mī pater, vultū maesto, capite dēmisso filiam tuam salūtās? Nōne libenter filiam vidēs?” Tum Agamemnōn tōtam rem filiae narrāvit. Ubi autem Īphigeneia dīrum ōrāculi responsum audīvit, tum vērō gelidus tremor per omnēs puellae artūs cucurrit. Humī sē prostrāvit, et patris genua manūsque prehendit. Multis lacrimis veniam ōrāvit. “Nunquamne,” inquit, “chorus iuvenum domum ad maritum mē dūcent? Nunquamne liberos dulcēs vidēbo et parvulos brachiis meis tenēbo, sed innupta ad Mānēs descendam? Sed ubi fātum fixum immōtumque sensit, tum vērō animum ad mortem firmāvit et fortem nōbilemque puellam sē praebuit. “Nōn mortem,” inquit, “sed ignāviam recūso. Libenter ad Mānēs descendam; morte meā Graecos militēs et Graeciam patriam conservābo. Nōn innupta, non sine liberis dulcibus ad Inferos descendam. Hādēs mē in mātrimōnium dūcet; militēs Graeci et Graecia patria mihi prō liberis erunt. Ita et Inferi et Superi mē in summo honōre habēbunt, quia libenter prō patriā ē vitā excessero.”

artūs, -uum, m. pl.—limbs.
bracchium, -i, n.—arm.
chorus, -i, m.—band, group.
collum, -i, n.—neck.
cūr—why.
dēmissus, -a, -um—cast down.
descendo, 3, -scendi, scensum—I go down.
dulcis, -e—sweet.
ē vitā excēdo—I die, depart out of life.
fātum, -i, n.—fate.
fixus, -a, -um—fixed.
genu, -ūs, n.—knee.
Hādēs—Hades, the god of the dead. The realm of the dead.
ignāvia, -ae, f.—cowardice.
immōtus, -a, -um—motionless, immovable.

innupta, -ae—unwedded.

Mānēs, -ium, m. pl.—departed spirits, gods of the dead.

manus, ūs, f.—hand.

maritus, -i, m.—husband.

mors, mortis, f.—death.

nōbilis, -e—noble, famous.

nōnne—*An adverb, showing that the question expects the answer "yes."*

praebeo, 2—I shew, furnish, offer.

salūto, 1—I greet.

sentio, 4, sensi, sensum—I feel, realize.

simul—at the same time : **simul ac**—as soon as.

spēs, speī, f.—hope.

Superī, -ōrum, m. pl.—the people above, *i.e.* the living or the gods.

tremor, -ōris, m.—trembling, tremor.

venia, -ae, f.—favour, pardon.

vultus, -ūs, m.—face, expression.

This passage opens with an example of the historical present. This is the use of the present tense in a narrative for dramatic or heightened effect. You can translate using the past tense which will make more sense. This is common in Latin and may even come up on the exam paper. If you find something in the present tense in a story context which would make better sense in the past use the past tense to translate it – you are encountering the historical present.

Remember that *ne* on the end of a word signals a question requiring a yes or no answer.

There is a closing quotation mark missing after “*descendam?*”

Have a go at translating and compare with my attempt over the page. If you need help with vocabulary that is not given at the end of the exercise but is not on the IGCSE syllabus, remember that there is a complete vocabulary for these translation exercises on the [Year Two](#) page just below the introduction which you can download, print and put in a file of folder.

And so Iphigenia came to the Greek camp with great hope. As soon as she saw the king she ran quickly to (her) father and gave her white arms to his dear neck [put her white arms round his dear neck]. But when she saw the sad face of the king, she said, "Why, my father, do you greet your daughter with a sad face and drooping head? Do you not see your daughter gladly? [Are you not glad to see your daughter?]" Then Agamemnon told [his] daughter the whole matter. However, when Iphigenia hear the dire answer of the oracle, then an icy tremor ran through all the limbs of the girl. She threw herself down on the ground and laid hold of her father's knees and hands. She begged mercy with many tears. She said, "will the band of youths never lead me from home to a husband? Will I never see sweet children will I never hold little ones in my arms but descend unmarried to the gods of the dead? But when she realised her fixed immoveable fate then truly she strengthened her mind for death and showed herself a brave and noble girl. "I do not refuse death," she said, "but [I do refuse] cowardice. I will descend willingly to the gods of the dead. Hades will marry me. The Greek soldiers and Greek fatherland will be to me for [in place of] children. Thus both the dead and the living will have me in the highest honour because I will die willingly for my country."