

Ancient Languages First Aid

PARSING



SECTION 10. PARSING

When studying ancient languages, we do a great deal of *parsing*. Indeed, the word “parsing” is derived from a Latin word: “pars”, meaning “part”. When you *parse* a sentence, you state the function of each word in that sentence. When learning ancient languages, we *parse* whole sentences often as it is a very useful way of identifying the grammatical structure and function of particular languages, or even particular types or genres of text.

What follows is an example of parsing:

The anxious senator walked towards Caesar quickly.

Name each part of speech in the sentence:

The	anxious	senator	walked	towards	Caesar	quickly
<i>article</i>	<i>adjective</i>	<i>noun</i>	<i>verb</i>	<i>preposition</i>	<i>proper noun</i>	<i>adverb</i>

State the function of each part of speech in the sentence:

The	definite article.
anxious	descriptive adjective qualifying the noun <i>senator</i> .
senator	common noun; singular number; common gender; nominative case, subject of the verb <i>walked</i> .
walked	transitive, finite verb; third person, singular number agreeing with the subject <i>senator</i> ; past tense, indicative mood, active voice.
towards	preposition; governing the pronoun Caesar; objective case.
Caesar	proper noun; singular number; masculine gender; objective case; object of the verb <i>walked</i> ; governed by the preposition <i>towards</i> .
quickly	adverb of manner, modifying the verb <i>walked</i> .