

ACCUSATIVE OF DESTINATION

Destination is what something is moving to or oriented toward. As with origin, destination may be physical, logical, or temporal. In English, destination is almost always expressed with a preposition, such as "to" or "at".

In Latin, destination is always expressed with the accusative case:

1) Sometimes a noun with the idea of destination will stand on its own in the accusative case. This is frequent in poetry or where the meaning is obvious. The names of cities and small islands are normally put in the accusative on their own.

Consider the following examples:

Vir domum venit. ("The man comes home.")

Vir Hierosolyman it. ("The man goes to Jerusalem.")

2) Much more frequently, destination is indicated by an accusative noun along with one of a few prepositions: *ad*, *in*, or *sub* are very common. Consider the following examples:

Vir ad oppidum venit. ("The man comes to the city.")

Femina in hortum it. ("The woman goes into the garden.")

Puer sub mensam it. ("The boy goes under the table.")

Because almost all prepositions take an accusative object of the preposition, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between an object of the preposition and a destination. For example, in *Vir poculum contra petram frangit*: is *petram* a destination or an object of the preposition. This distinction is not important. It is only important to understand the accusative of destination because it sometimes stands on its own and because prepositions such as *in* and *sub* only take the accusative when they have a sense of destination.