

Latin Verbs: Deponents

Deponent verbs usually look passive but are active in meaning.

Amâtur means "x is loved," but the deponent word *sequitur* means "x follows." This word **can not be** transposed into a form that would make it mean "x is followed." The passive form with passive meaning does not exist. We must now slightly revise what has been said about the personal endings of verbs. There are

- (1) some verbs that take **both active and passive endings**;
- (2) some verbs that usually take **active endings and no passive endings** because they are intransitive;

Intransitive verbs are used without objects and therefore they can not occur in the passive voice because the passive voice transposes the *object* (in the active-voice expression) into the subject-position: She throws the *boomerang*. → The *boomerang* is thrown by her.

The exception to the occurrence of the passive in Latin for some of these verbs includes the "impersonal passive," e.g., *pugnâtur* = "It is being fought." = "There is fighting." / "They (unspecified people) are fighting." / "A fight is going on."

- (3) some verbs that mostly have **only endings that look passive but carry active meanings**: they therefore are **not called passive but deponent**. These words usually have no "passive" meanings (except for the future passive participle). **Note:** Deponents **can** be transitive, i.e., take direct objects, even though they can not be transposed into a "passive form": *Tê sequor* = I follow you.

Type 1: "Full" Transitive		Type 2: Intransitive		Type 3: Deponent	
Active	Passive	Active	Passive		
-m / -o	-r	-m / -o		-r	
-s	-ris [-re]	-s		-ris [-re]	
-t	-tur	-t	-tur	-tur	
-mus	-mur	-mus		-mur	
-tis	-minî	-tis		-minî	
-nt	-ntur	-nt		-ntur	

Some first-conjugation deponent verbs:

1st part	2d part	3d part	Meanings of the principal parts:
arbitror	arbitrârî	arbitrâtus sum	I think / judge, to think / to judge, I have thought / I have judged
cônor	cônârî	cônâtus sum	I try, to try, I have tried
hortor	hortârî	hortâtus sum	I encourage, to encourage, I have encouraged
laetor	laetârî	laetâtus sum	I rejoice, to rejoice, I have rejoiced
moror	morârî	morâtus sum	I delay, to delay, I have delayed
minor	minârî	minâtus sum	I threaten, to threaten, I have threatened
mîror	mîrârî	mîrâtus sum	I wonder at, to wonder at, I have wondered at
opînor	opînârî	opînâtus sum	I suppose, to suppose, I have supposed
suspîcor	suspîcârî	suspîcâtus sum	I suspect, to suspect, I have suspected

Note: There are typically only *three* principal parts for deponents. The third part gives us the past participle.