

Chapter

4

Qui habet mandata mea, et servat ea; [lib: mat: quidlibet: rom:](#)

Inquam; Possum; Partitive Genitive; Reign of Herod

I. Grammar

A. Inquam, the verb meaning *I say*, is an irregular and defective verb which only has five commonly used forms. This verb is used to introduce direct quotations, and is usually placed after the first word or phrase in the sentence. The Romans used little pronunciation (although we do for this book), and this word took the place of quotation marks.

Copy this chart and put it in the "Conjugations" section of your notebook on the page which is titled Irregular Verbs.

Present tense	Perfect tense
in'quā , <i>I say</i> in'quis , <i>you say</i> in'quit , <i>he or she says</i> in'quiunt , <i>they say</i>	in'quit , <i>he or she said</i>

B. Possum, the verb meaning *I can*, or *I am able*, is a combination of the adjective **potis**, *able*, and the verb **sum**, *I am*. You will notice that, in these three tenses, the stem changes: the **pot-** is followed by an **e**, and the **pos-** is followed by an **s**. In Latin, this verb is followed by the complementary infinitive, and can be translated in this way: **possum ambulare**, *I am able to walk*, or *I can walk*.

The imperfect tense can be translated in either of these two ways.

Libros portare poterat. *He was able to carry the books. He could carry the books.*

The future tense is translated: **Ambulare poterō.** *I shall be able to walk, I would be able to walk.*



*The girls are able to walk.
The girls can walk.*