

INDIRECT STATEMENT (ORATIO OBLIQUA)

General: The statement “He scatters dragon’s teeth on the land” is a direct statement (*ōrātiō recta*): *Dentēs dracōnis in terrā spargit.*

But after words of saying, denying, announcing, telling, showing, knowing, not knowing, believing, thinking, hearing, seeing, feeling, hoping, fearing, and the like, we are able to express statements indirectly (*ōrātiō oblīqua*):

He says that he scatters the dragon’s teeth on the land.

He hopes that he scatters the dragon’s teeth on the land.

Formation: In English indirect statements are introduced by a subordinating conjunction *that*, which has no equivalent in classical Latin. Instead, a subject accusative + infinitive is used. The subject of the old direct statement (he) is made accusative (*eum*) and the verb (scatters) is put into its infinitive form (*spargere*).

This usage also may be found in English (though less commonly than the subordinate clause with *that*): I believe *him* (subject accusative) *to be* (infinitive) a good man.

When dealing with indirect speech, *only* the subject and the verb are changed - the rest of the sentence remains unchanged.

Direct Statement: *Dentēs dracōnis in terrā spargit.*

Indirect Statement: *Dīcō **eum** dentēs dracōnis in terrā spargere.*

Reflexive in Indirect Statement: If the subject of the indirect statement is the same as the subject of the main (introducing) verb, the reflexive pronoun is used:

Dīcit sē dracōnis dentēs in terrā spargere.

He says that he (himself) scatters the dragon’s teeth on the land.

Dīcunt sē dracōnis dentēs in terrā sparsūros esse.

They say that they (themselves) will scatter the dragon’s teeth on the land.

FORMS FOR INFINITIVES:

Each verb has six infinitive forms, five of which are in common use and must be learned:

Active

<i>Pres.</i>	laudāre	monēre	dūcere	audīre
<i>Perf.</i>	laudāvisse	monuisse	dūxisse	audīvisse
<i>Fut.</i>	laudātūrus esse	monitūrus esse	ductūrus esse	auditūrus esse

Passive

<i>Pres.</i>	laudārī	monērī	dūcī	audīrī
<i>Perf.</i>	laudātus esse	monitus esse	ductus esse	audītus esse
<i>Fut.</i>	laudātum īrī	monitum īrī	ductum īrī	audītum īrī

The future passive infinitive is rare.