

Now, no one will deny that by this method we can get at the meaning of a Latin sentence, and if the sentence be very short, as in the above example, the meaning can be got at without a great deal of time ; but it must be equally evident that it is a bungling process, where the sentences are long, and when the subject or predicate cannot be readily found. How ridiculous, too, it would appear to any Roman could he see us treating his writings as though his sentences were framed to test our ability at solving puzzles !

Latin sentences are not puzzles. The Romans spoke their language much in the same way as they wrote it. The orations of Cicero had not first to be written out and subjected to a grammatical analysis in order to be intelligible to the Roman people. The order in which he uttered his words may be different to the order in which they would be uttered by a nineteenth-century orator, and at first may seem unnatural to the modern mind, but there is no one who cannot, with a little practice, accustom himself to the Latin sentence, so as to be able to read it right straight along, and feel that the Latin order is quite as natural as that of the English. (3)

The inability of the college student to do this is due partly, no doubt, to his following the misleading instruc-

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(3) The construction of the German sentence is frequently like that of the Latin, and in many schools students will be found unravelling their German as they do their Latin. It is needless to say that the Germans themselves do not require to do this with their language. Will anyone contend that the Romans were obliged to do so with theirs ?