

**Commentary on Caesar, De Bello Civili, 1.1-33**  
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AG = *Allen and Greenough's New Latin Grammar*  
OLD = *Oxford Latin Dictionary*

### Chapter 1

1. **...litteris C. Caesaris consulibus redditis**: It seems likely that several sentences have been lost from the start of *De Bello Civili*. The letter referred to was delivered by C. Curio, a staunch supporter of Caesar, to the senate on January 1, 49, and repeats Caesar's offer that both Pompey and himself give up their military commands. The anti-Caesarian faction in the senate wanted Caesar alone to give up his command. **consulibus**: L. Lentulus and C. Marcellus, both steadfast opponents of Caesar. **redditis**: A letter was said to be "restored," the implication that it was an answer to a previous letter. **impetratum est**: Impersonal construction "it was granted" - essentially, the subject is the substantive result clause that follows (AG §569). **his**: the consuls. **tribunorum**: Marcus Antonius (Mark Antony) and Q. Cassius Longinus, both supporters of Caesar. **referretur**: Another impersonal construction. **Ad senatum referre** is the technical expression for bringing an issue to the senate floor for debate. The senate could not legally debate an issue unless it was introduced by one of the magistrates.
2. **infinite**: "in general," that is, the consuls were bringing up the general political situation rather than the proposal in Caesar's letter. They were afraid that if Caesar's proposal came to a vote, it would pass since most senators favored peace. **defuturum**: sc. **esse**. **desum** normally governs the dative case. **velint...respiciant...sequantur...fecerint**: subjunctives in subordinate clauses in indirect discourse (AG §580).
3. **ut**: here "as." **sibi**: dative of reference (AG §376-7). **obtemperatum**: verbs expressing obedience normally govern the dative. **habere se quoque ad Caesaris gratiam atque amicitiam receptum**: presumably, Lentulus, who had substantial debts, is threatening to join Caesar's side if the price is right. **receptum**: < **receptus**, -us.
4. **Scipio**: P. Caecilius Metellus Pius Scipio Nasica became Pompey's father-in-law in 52, after Pompey turned down an offer from Caesar to marry Caesar's great-niece Octavia (sister of the future Emperor Augustus). Pompey had earlier been married to Caesar's daughter Julia, but she died in childbirth. **Pompeio esse in animo rei publicae non deesse**: The main verb of this sentence in indirect discourse is **esse**. The subject is **non deesse**, which also governs **rei publicae**. **Pompeio** is another dative of reference, associated with **animo**.

### Chapter 2

1. **Pompeiusque aderat**: Pompey, as a proconsul with imperium, could not technically cross the sacred boundary (pomerium) of Rome without losing his command, and had to remain just outside the city. **videbatur**: here, "seemed" (OLD, **uideo**, 20d) not "was being seen."
2. **ut**: "as," "for example." **non oportere ante de ea re ad senatum referri**: **oportere** and **referri** are both impersonal, but **oportere** is the main verb of the clause and governs **referri**. **ante**: separated from **quam**, ie, **antequam**. **dilectus**: nominative plural. **tota Italia**: ablative of place where. **In** is sometimes omitted when a place name is modified by **totus** (AG §429.2). **habiti ...conscripti essent**: The pluperfect subjunctives take the place of the future perfect indicative, showing a

completed action in future time, in indirect statement (AG §484c, 551c). *quo*: = *ut eo* introducing a clause of purpose (AG §531.2a note). *tuto*: adverb.

3. *ut*: introducing an indirect command. *in suas provincias*: the two provinces of Spain, which Pompey was governing through legates while he remained just outside Rome. *qua*: = *aliqua* following *ne* (AG §531.1). *Caesarem*: subject of *timere* in indirect discourse. *duabus legionibus*: Pompey and Caesar were each obligated to contribute a legion from their armies for the coming war against Parthia in the east. Pompey chose a legion he had previously loaned Caesar, thereby depriving Caesar of two legions instead of one. *ne*: introduces a clause of fearing. *ad eius periculum*: “for his [Caesar’s] danger,” ie, to endanger Caesar himself. *periculum* takes a genitive of the person or thing endangered, the objective genitive. (OLD, *periculum*, 2b). *ad urbem*: “near the city.”

4. *correpti exagitabantur*: note how Latin uses a participle and verb where English would use two verbs joined by a conjunction.

5. *sententiam...pronuntiaturum*: *sententiam pronuntio* is the technical term for “put a motion to a vote.” *a sua sententia discessit*: ie, he withdrew his proposal.

6. *terrore praesentis exercitus*: presumably the troops Pompey had near Rome, see above 1.2.3. *uti*: = *ut*, introducing an indirect command, contained in the *sententiam* of Scipio. *faciat*: present subjunctive for future indicative in indirect discourse.

7. *Intercedit*: “vetoed.” Singular because it is attracted to the nearest subject. Tribunes had the right to block or veto any decree of the senate except the *senatus consultum ultimum*. A veto could not be legally overridden, but the senate nevertheless begins to discuss doing just that.

8. *ut...ita*: coordinating adverbs, “as anyone...thus he was...” *quam*: goes with the superlative adverb.

### Chapter 3

1. *ad vesperum*: Legally, the senate and other assemblies could not meet after sunset. *eius ordinis*: what type of genitive? *evocantur*: Pompey could not legally enter the city (above, on 2.1), and so he summoned the senate to meet him outside the pomerium.

2. *ordinum*: military ranks, ie, promotions. *evocantur*: to call up soldiers from reserve status (OLD, *euoco*, 3c). Many soldiers from Pompey’s earlier campaigns in Spain and the East were settled throughout Italy.

3. *clivus*: sc. *Capitolinus*, the slope of the Capitoline Hill. *comitium*: An open spot in the forum adjacent to the senate house where assemblies were held. Notice how there are no conjunctions joining the three subjects, a literary technique called asyndeton. *tribunis centurionibus evocatis*: ablatives of means with a verb of filling (AG §409a). The tribunes here are not the tribunes of the people, but rather military officers. There were six in each legion.

4. *necessarii*: close associates (OLD *necessarius*<sup>2</sup>)

5. *plerisque*: why ablative?

6. *L. Piso*: Caesar’s father-in-law. *L. Roscius*: one of Caesar’s former officers. *qui*: introduces a relative clause of purpose. *sex dies...spati*: = *spatium sex dierum*, the time necessary to travel to Caesar and back.

## Chapter 4

1. **resistitur**: **resisto** governs a dative and is impersonal in the passive (AG §372). **Catonis**: Marcus Porcius Cato the Younger, the leader of the most conservative, anti-Caesarian faction in the senate. **repulsae**: Cato had stood for the consulship in 52 and lost, apparently due in part to Caesar's supporters.
2. **aeris alieni**: debt. **regum appellandorum largitionibus**: Rulers and would be rulers on the fringes of Rome's territory often appealed to the Senate and Roman officials for official recognition as means of securing their positions. Bribery was a common part of such appeals, and a Roman official could gain the king as his client. **fore**: future infinitive of **esse**, = **futurum esse**. **Sullam**: L. Cornelius Sulla had been the victor of a civil war between 88-82. Afterwards he was named dictator and instituted a reactionary regime that saw hundred of political opponents murdered or exiled.
3. **partiturum**: < **pario**. **pro necessitudine**: See on 1.4. **iudiciorum metus**: Scipio was apparently threatened with prosecution for bribery and electoral malfeasance during 53 and 52. **sui**: objective genitive. **plurimum**: adverbial.
4. **dignitate**: ablative of specification (AG §418). **maximam partem illo adfinitatis tempore**: in other words, when Pompey and Caesar first allied in 60, Caesar acquired all of Pompey's enemies, with whom Pompey has now made common cause against Caesar.
5. **infamia duarum legionum**: See on 2.3. **Asiae Syriaeque**: Presumably genitive, but the usage is obscure although the meaning is clear.

## Chapter 5

1. **docendi Caesaris**: depends on **spatium**. **propinquis**: supporters. **nec tribunis plebis... facultas tribuitur**: the subject of this entire clause is **facultas**, on which all the genitives depend. **extremi iuris**: the last of their rights, that is, the most important of their rights as tribunes. **intercessione**: probably ablative of means, "by exercising their veto." **quod L. Sulla reliquerat**: Not entirely accurate - Sulla did not abolish the veto, but he did severely restrict its use.
2. **septimo die**: January 7. **quod**: = **id quod**, "a thing which," that is, looking after their own safety. **illi turbulentissimi superioribus temporibus tribuni plebis**: Numerous tribunes had clashed with the senate before 49, especially since 133. Most of them wound up dead after months of agitating, but in 49 the tribunes have to look to their safety after only seven days! **consuerant**: syncopated form of **consueverant**.
3. **Decurritur**: impersonal. **consultum**: the **senatus consultum ultimum** ordered the consuls to take whatever steps were necessary for the safety of the Republic, similar to a declaration of martial law. A decree of the senate was not actually legally binding, but did carry considerable moral force. It had been passed only seven times before. **quo nisi... discessum est**: A difficult, and possibly corrupt, sentence. **quo**: adverbial meaning "to which end." **latorum audacia**: "because of the recklessness of those passing laws," ablative of cause. **dent operam consulibus...**: the actual wording of the **senatus consultum ultimum**.
4. **a.d. VII Id. Ian.**: = **ante diem septimum Idus Ianuarias**, seven days before the Ides of January, or January 7. **V primis diebus... biduo excepto comitiali**: January 3-4 were comitial days, days set aside for meeting of the assembly. The senate could not meet on those days. Caesar's point is that the senate met on every legal day it could to debate this matter. **decernitur**: impersonal.

5. **Ravennae**: city in Italy just north of the Rubicon River, which marked the official boundary of Caesar's province. **suis lenissimis postulatis**: naturally, Caesar will not characterize his demands as unreasonable! **qua**: = **aliqua**, why?

## Chapter 6

1. **Proximis diebus**: January 8-15, after which the senate could not meet until February. **habere**: notice how easily the Latin slips into indirect discourse following an implied verb of speaking.
2. **alieno...animo**: ablative of description. **alieno** here means "disloyal." **posse persuaderi**: both verbs are impersonal. - **iis**: refers to the **milites** and is governed by **persuaderi**. **eum**: Caesar.
3. **habeatur... mittatur... detur**: subjunctives in indirect commands without **ut** (AG §565a). **Faustus Sulla**: Sulla's son and Pompey's son-in-law. **uti**: a rare infinitive of purpose after **do** (AG §460a). **Iuba**: King of Numidia who had connections to Pompey, an effective army, and was a known enemy of Caesar.
4. **Marcellus**: Apparently the consul felt that it was premature to make overtures to an outright enemy of Caesar. **Philippus**: L. Marcius Philippus, son of the consul of 56.
5. **privatis**: Under legislation passed by Pompey in 52, provinces could not be assigned to a consul or praetor until five years after he left office. However, in this debate the men who obtain the consular provinces were both technically ineligible. **L. Domitius**: L. Domitius Ahenobarbus, one of Caesar's greatest enemies, obtained the province Caesar currently held. **privato consilio**: by a private arrangement.
6. **ad populum feratur**: Proconsular and propraetorian **imperium** could be granted by the senate if it was merely a continuation of consul or praetor's term in office, however, when a private citizen received imperium, it had to be granted by the people. This seems to have been a formality and was probably done through a law passed by ancient the comitia curiata. **paludati**: < **paludatus**, "wearing a military cloak," ie, the garb of a general. **votis nuncupatis**: Incoming generals swore oaths of loyalty to Rome on the Capitoline hill.
7. <**ne auspicato quidem**>: Since consuls had frequently left Rome during their term in office, something must have dropped out of the text here. This restoration is based on a statement in Plutarch's *Life of Pompey* that the consuls left the city without even taking the auspices. **lictioresque...privati**: Because these men had not formally received imperium, they were not yet entitled to lictors.
8. **fanis**: A **fanum** is a sacred precinct. Many of these were quite rich in votive offerings, to which Caesar's enemies now sacrilegiously helped themselves.

## Chapter 7

1. **Quibus rebus cognititis**: The narrative shifts to Ravenna, where Caesar was monitoring events in Rome. It takes about three days to travel from Rome to Ravenna, so Caesar may not have been aware of everything that happened in Rome following the passage of the **Senatus Consultum Ultimum** on January 7 when he made his move. **invidia atque obtrectatione**: ablatives of cause. **cuius**: introduces a relative clause of characteristic showing concession (AG §535e). **faverit**: governs the dative.
2. **armis notaretur atque opprimeretur**: Not true - force had been used against tribunes on a number of occasions.
3. **Sullam**: See on 5.1 above. **omnibus rebus**: ablative of specification (AG §418), "in every way."

4. **restituisset**: In his first consulship (70) Pompey had restored the full rights of the tribunes that Sulla had eliminated.
5. **sit decretum**: introduces an indirect command without **ut**. Note that the indirect discourse governed by the historical present **queritur** has verbs following the rules for both primary and secondary sequence (AG §485e). **factum**: sc. **esse**. The subject is the preceding clause, ie, the passing of the **Senatus Consultum Ultimum**. The actions which follow refer to the causes by which the **SCU** had been passed on prior occasions.
6. **Saturnini atque Gracchorum casibus**: Saturninus and both Gracchi brothers had been murdered for the actions of their tribunates, which included some of the deeds referred to in the previous sentence. Caesar's point is that he has not yet done anything illegal, and yet his enemies are already taking extreme measures.
7. **Hortatur**: introduces the indirect command with **ut**, which in turn governs the relative clause with **cuius**. **imperatoris**: in apposition to **cuius**. **VIII annis**: ablative of time. Caesar's army fought in Gaul from 58-50.
8. **legionis XIII**: this was the legion that Caesar maintained in northern Italy, which was at this time the province of Cisalpine Gaul. His other legions had not yet crossed the Alps. **initio tumultus**: perhaps at the beginning of 50, when the issue of Caesar's command first came up. **imperatoris sui tribunorumque plebis**: what type of genitive is this?

## Chapter 8

1. **Ariminum cum ea legione proficiscitur**: Caesar crossed the River Rubicon, the formal boundary between his province and Italy proper, on the night of either January 10 or January 11.
2. **L. Caesar**: His father had been one of Caesar's legates, and remained in Caesar's camp. Presumably for this reason Pompey chose him to convey a private message to Caesar.
3. **Caesari**: dative of reference. **in suam contumeliam vertat**: the subject is Caesar. **suam** is taking the place of the objective genitive **sui**. Pompey is asking Caesar not to take this personally. **necessitudinibus**: what kind of ablative? **rei publicae**: dative of advantage. **adeo**: "to such an extent," setting up the result clause. **cum illis nocere se speret**: temporal clause. **speret** is attracted into the subjunctive because it is part of the result clause (AG §593).
4. **Pompei**: the genitive can indicate either that L. Caesar is giving Pompey's excuses (subjective genitive) or making excuses for Pompey (objective genitive). **Roscius**: see on 3.6. **commemorasse**: = **commemoravisse**.

## Chapter 9

1. **quae**: connecting relative. **nihil**: adverbial accusative, "in no respect" (AG §397a). **nactus**: < **nanciscor**. **per quos...perferrentur**: relative clause of purpose. **eum**: Pompey. **petit**: introduces an indirect command.
2. Caesar's message to Pompey, in indirect discourse. **populi Romani beneficium**: a reference to the plebiscite passed in 52 which would allow for Caesar to stand for the consulship in absentia. Normally, a candidate had to be present in Rome to stand for the consulship 6 months before the new term in office started. However, if Caesar entered Rome he would have to cross the pomerium and lose his imperium. This would leave him open to prosecution by his enemies. Caesar planned to register and run for the consulship while keeping his command, and would only enter Rome when the time came to begin his year in office as consul. **cuius absentis**

*rationem haberi proximis comitiis populus iussisset*: a relative clause of concession. *cuius*: refers back to Caesar. *rationem*: Caesar's candidature for the consulship.

3. *hanc iacturam honoris*: Caesar conceded the right to stand for the consulship in absentia in the letter he sent to the senate (see 1.1). *ut omnes ab exercitibus discederent*: indirect command.

4. *Quonam*: = *quo*, interrogative adverb.

5. *Proficiscatur Pompeius in suas provincias*: Pompey was technically governor of Spain, but remained outside of Rome. *Proficiscatur* and the following subjunctives represent imperatives in indirect speech.

6. *quo*: introduces a purpose clause with a comparative (AG §531.2a). *iure iurando*: by swearing an oath. *fore* = *futurum esse*.

## Chapter 10

1. *Caesare*: Lucius, not Julius.

2. *summa*: < *summa*, noun, not *summus*, adj. The *scripta mandata* probably reached Caesar on January 29 or February 1.

3. *Arimino*: by this time, Caesar has occupied more towns than this. *reverteretur...excederet...dimitteret*: why subjunctives? *exercitus dimitteret*: Caesar cannot be reporting these demands fully, since at least some of his legions would be needed in Gaul for use by his successor. *fecisset*: pluperfect subjunctive replacing a future perfect indicative in indirect discourse - see on 2.2.

## Chapter 11

1. *ipsum*: Pompey.

2. *quem diem* is the antecedent, even though it is in the relative clause. *iturus sit*: primary tense for vividness. Caesar's concern here is that Pompey would promise to go to Spain at some indefinite point, then stay in Italy until after Caesar's consulship ended.

3. *dare...polliceri*: subjects of *adferebat*.

4. *mittit*: the subject is now Caesar. *Pisaurum, Fanum, Anconam*: Caesar implies that he did not occupy these cities until after Pompey's rejection of his demands, but in fact Cicero's correspondence shows that Caesar had seized all these places before he met again with L. Caesar and Roscius.

## Chapter 12

1. The subject is still Caesar. *Thermum*: subject of both *tenere* and *munire*. Q. Minucius Thermus had governed part of Asia as a propraetor from 52-50. *Curionem*: As tribune in 50, C. Scribonius Curio had proved very adept at advancing Caesar's interests. After his term ended, it was Curio who delivered Caesar's letter to the senate on January 1.

2. *voluntati*: dative with *diffisus*.

3. *ex praesidiis*: from garrison duties. *Attius*: Publius Attius Varus, another opponent of Caesar.

## Chapter 13

1. *decuriones*: the members of the local town council. *sui iudici rem non esse*: ie, the town is unwilling to take a side for or against either leader. *proinde*: "accordingly," introducing a

consequence (OLD, proinde, 3). **habeat**: subjunctive representing an imperative in indirect discourse. **habeo rationem**: = “to take into consideration,” (OLD, habeo, 19d).

3. **hunc**: Varus. **ex primo ordine**: from the first century of the first cohort of a legion.
4. **primi pili centurio**: the senior centurion in the first cohort, and therefore, the entire legion.
5. **Attianos**: adjectival form of Attius (Varus).

## Chapter 14

1. **sanctiore aerario**: the inner treasury, which was supposed to be opened only in times of extreme national crisis. Lentulus does not seem to have actually opened it up (Cicero, *Ad Att.* 7.12.2), and Caesar may be trying to justify his own later despoiling of the treasury. **equites**: cavalry.
2. **Hunc**: Lentulus.
3. **pridie eius diei**: “on the day before,” ie, January 17.
4. The subject now changes to Caesar’s enemies in general. **lege Iulia**: ablative of specification (AG §418), “in accordance with the Julian Law.” Caesar famously passed this law in 59 to provide colonies where Pompey’s veteran troops could settle. **gladiatoresque**: Caesar had established a school for gladiators in Capua in 65.
5. **reprehendebatur**: using gladiators as troops would remind people of the revolt of Spartacus in 73 in the very same region. **conventus Campaniae**: the citizen assembly of Capua.

## Chapter 15

1. **agrum**: “district.” **praefecturae**: towns with magistrates (praefecti) appointed directly by Rome, as opposed to a **municipium**, which elected its own magistrates. **omnibus rebus**: what kind of ablative?
2. **quod**: the antecedent is **oppidum**. When the antecedent to a relative pronoun stands in apposition to another noun in the main clause (here **Cingulo**) it is regularly put into the relative clause (AG §307e) in the same case as the relative pronoun. **Labienuis**: T. Labienus had served under Caesar throughout the Gallic wars, but switched to Pompey’s side at the outbreak of the civil war.
3. **legio XII**: this legion was actually wintering across the Alps, and could only have caught up with Caesar so quickly (early February) if he had put them into motion well before he crossed the Rubicon. Cf. 8.1. **his duabus**: sc. **legionibus**. Lentulus Spinther: cos. 51, he seems to have been the most senior Pompeian commander in northern Italy.
4. **Vibullium Rufum**: L. Vibullius Rufus was one of Pompey’s **praefecti fabrum** (staff officers). **quo**: connecting relative (AG §308f).
5. **Lucilium Hirrum**: C. Lucilius Hirrus, a follower of L. Domitius Ahenobarbus. **XIII**: sc. **cohortes**.
6. **Corfinium**: An important city about 80 miles east of Rome. **magnis itineribus**: “forced marches.”
7. **per se**: “through his own efforts.” **XX cohortes**: With the addition of Lucilius’ men, Ahenobarbus had 33 cohorts, slightly more than the strength of 3 legions. **Alba**: Alba Fucens, about 20 miles west of Corfinium. Rome founded a colony there in 303.

## Chapter 16

1. *unum diem*: February 4.
2. *Eo cum venisset*: probably on February 15. *fluminis*: the River Aternus (modern Pescara). *milia passuum*: *mille passus* is a Roman mile.
3. *Domitiani*: adjectival form of Domitius, ie “the men of Domitius.”

## Chapter 17

1. *peritos regionum*: in order to evade Caesar’s scouts and patrols. *duobus exercitibus*: Domitius’ forces and Pompey’s army.
3. *tormenta*: a generic word for any sort of military engine that shoot or throws missiles. *partes*: “function,” the normal meaning of *pars* in the plural.
4. *agros*: grants of land on which to settle after the war. *XL...iugera*: 40 iugera is about 24 acres. Domitius probably had about 12,000 men at Corfinium, so this works out to more than 500 square miles of land, not an impossible amount for an upper-class Roman family, especially if included overseas holdings. *pro rata parte*: “in due proportion.” Centurions and evocati were paid more than a regular soldier, and could expect a larger grant of land.

## Chapter 18

1. *intervallo*: ablative of degree of difference. *tenebant*: indicative, in spite of being in a subordinate clause in indirect discourse, because it is explanatory (AG §583).
3. *se deiecerunt*: Cicero (Ad Att. 8.4.4) says Attius opened the gates, and Lucretius fled. *ut*: what kind of clause does this introduce?
4. *incolumem*: Caesar made clemency towards his opponents a major part of his campaign to win hearts and minds. *primis diebus*: February 14 and following.
5. *Eo triduo*: ablative of time within which (AG §423). *legio VIII*: With reinforcements from both Gauls, local levies, and the defecting troops, Caesar had close to 50 cohorts, or 5 legions, available at this point. *Norico*: Noricum, a small kingdom between the Alps and the Danube. Romans regularly used foreign cavalry to support their infantry.
6. *missi*: the messengers sent by Domitius at 17.1.

## Chapter 19

1. *subsidio*: dative of purpose (AG §382). *usui*: also a dative of purpose. *parent*: subjunctive in a purpose clause - the *ut* is implied by the *ne* in the preceding clause.
3. *consuesset*: = *consuevisset*. *res*: ie, Domitius’ plans to escape.
5. This final sentence is a remark by Caesar, not part of Pompey’s reply. *ne*: = *ut non*, introducing a substantive clause of result (AG §569).

## Chapter 20

1. *primo vesperi*: early in the evening. *sui generis*: ie, the ordinary rank and file soldiers.
2. *cuius*: objective genitive. *suae salutis*: another objective genitive. *rationem habere*: see on 13.1.

3. *manum conserere*: “join in close combat” (OLD, *consero*<sup>2</sup>, 4a).
5. *sese paratos esse*: indirect discourse, reporting what the legates said to Caesar.

## Chapter 21

1. *Quibus*: connecting relative. *magni*: genitive of value (AG §355b n. 2). *potiri*: can govern either the accusative, or, as here, the ablative. *quod...intercederent*: a rare example of a generalizing statement about the nature of war in Caesar.
2. *veritus*: Caesar wants to make sure that the townspeople are treated well and not abused by the soldiers, because he wants them on his side. *militum... temporis*: what type of genitive?
4. *caveant...adservent*: why subjunctive?
5. *animo*: ablative of description (AG §415). *qui...conquieverit*: relative clause of result.
6. *quid...accideret*: indirect question with a verb meaning “wondering” or similar implied.

## Chapter 22

1. *Quarta vigilia*: Normally, a Roman army had four night watches. The last would be the period right before sunrise.
2. *prius...quam*:= *priusquam*. *priusquam* normally takes a subjunctive when there is an implication of purpose (AG §551b and n. 2).
4. *collegium pontificum*: the board of 15 priests which oversaw religious ceremonies and festivals, and kept the Roman calendar in sync with the seasons. *ex praetura*: Lentulus was praetor in 60, and governed Hispania Citerior in 59, apparently due to Caesar’s influence. *in petitione consulatus*: Lentulus ran for consul in 58, and was duly elected with the support of Caesar and Pompey.
5. Compare Caesar’s justifications for civil war here with the rest of his narrative.
6. *fore*: the subject of the infinitive is the *quod* clause. *solatio*: dative of purpose (AG §382.1), also known as the double dative construction. *suae vitae durius consulere*: euphemism for committing suicide.

## Chapter 23

1. It is now the morning of February 21.
2. *decurionum*: see on 13.1.
3. *a*: governs an ablative of separation with *prohibet*. *a parte eorum*: *a* again governs an ablative of separation, literally, “from their side.” *dimittit omnes incolumes*: every one of the senators Caesar pardons here would continue to fight him, but Caesar’s act of clemency won him great acclaim throughout Italy.
4. *Sestertium*: the *sestertius* (abbreviated HS) was a monetary unit consisting of 2.5 asses. See AG §632-635. The *sestertium* is 1000 sestertii, and was probably in origin a genitive plural of *sestertius*, and is used that way here. *sexagies*: sc. *centena milia*. So the total amount Caesar reports here is 6,000,000 HS. *III viris*: local magistrates.
5. *iustumque iter*: a normal day’s march, about 20 miles. Caesar was anxious to catch up with Pompey as soon as possible.

## Chapter 24

1. Caesar implies that it was the news of the fall of Corfinium that caused Pompey to leave Luceria, but Cicero's letters show that Pompey was already in Canusium the day before Caesar captured Corfinium. Pompey arrived at Brundisium, the primary port on the south-east coast of Italy, on February 25.
2. *servos...armat*: arming slaves was an act of desperation on Pompey's part, but the levies of troops were generally unsuccessful or too little, too late.
3. *Vibius Curius*: otherwise unknown.
4. *reliquis itineribus*: "on other marches," ie, the other groups of soldiers marching to join Pompey.
5. Why does Caesar still want to meet with Pompey at this point? *idem...ac*: words like *idem* indicating likeness are often followed by *atque* or *ac*, or a relative pronoun, "as" (AG §384 n. 2). *disceptetur*: subjunctive in a conditional clause of comparison (AG §524).

## Chapter 25

1. Caesar arrived at Brundisium on March 9.
2. *Dyrrachium*: modern Durazzo in Albania, which gave access to the roads leading into Greece and Macedonia.
3. *obtinendine*: the suffix *-ne* introduces an indirect question. *quo*: see on 2.2.
4. *ille*: Pompey.
5. Description of the siege-works in the harbor. First, Caesar builds moles from the shores at the narrowest part of the harbour, and when the water becomes too deep, he constructs pontoon rafts to try and choke off the harbor completely. On every fourth raft, Caesar put a tower for additional defense against seaborne attack.
6. *quoquo versus*:= *quoquo versus*. *e regione molis*: ie, continuing the course of the mole.

## Chapter 26

1. *naves magnas onerarias*: large cargo ships. *appellebat*: from *appello*, "to move or drive," not *appello*, "to speak, address, call."
2. *Magium*: see 24.4f. *ad se non remitti*: this is not true. We have a letter of Caesar's (Cic. Att. 9.13A) which says that Pompey sent Magius back to Caesar to discuss peace. While there was probably nothing of substance to these discussions, Caesar is falsifying Pompey's willingness to at least reply to his overtures. *ea res*: ie, negotiations with Pompey. *in eo*: "in this matter." *perseverandum*: sc. *esse* and *sibi*.
3. *ad eum*: ie, to Libo. *in primis*:= *imprimis*, "above all." *ipse*: Caesar.
4. *demonstrat*: the subject is Caesar. *si eius rei sit potestas facta*: ie, if such a meeting actually came about. *discedatur*: impersonal. *cuius rei*: ie, for bringing about peace.
5. *agi de*: *agitur de* is an impersonal construction, "to consider about."
6. *de bello agendum*: note that only now does Caesar claim that war was inevitable.

## Chapter 27

1. *diebusque...VIII*: March 9 to March 17.

3. *quo*: see on 2.2.
4. *ferebant*: here intransitive, “led.” *maximis defixis trabibus*: Long wooden stakes fixed upright in the ground.
5. *expedito loco*: “in a safe place.” *actuaria navigia*: small fast vessels.

## Chapter 28

1. Compare the actions of the citizens of Brundisium to the residents of Corfinium.
2. *illis*: Pompey’s men. *re*: ie, preparing to escape. *vulgo*: the adverb, not the noun *vulgus*.
3. *sub noctem*: night sailing was a very risky affair in the ancient world.
4. *Milites*: Caesar’s men. *his*: the Brundisini. *caecum*: note that *caecus* can mean both “not seeing” and “not seen.” *scaphis lintribusque*: two different types of small boats, although the precise difference between them is unknown.

## Chapter 29

1. *ad spem*: “in the hope...” *probat*: “regarded as good to” (OLD, *probo*, 1).
2. *Relinquebatur*: the subject is the following substantive clause of result. Translate “the only course left was to...” *a freto*: ie, the straits of Messina between Italy and Sicily.
3. *veterem exercitum*: Pompey had seven legions in Spain. *duas Hispanias*: Spain was divided into two provinces at this time, Hispania Citerior (Nearer Spain) and Hispania Ulterior (Further Spain), of which Pompey was the governor. *altera*: Nearer Spain, ie, the southeastern coastal region. From 76-72 Pompey had campaigned in Spain against the rebel Sertorius, and won the admiration and loyalty of the province through his success.

## Chapter 30

1. *naves conquirant*: ships for the eventual pursuit of Pompey, not the Spanish campaign.
2. *Sardiniam...Siciliam...Africam*: these provinces were, at the time, the principle sources of Rome’s food supply, so securing them was a priority for Caesar. Roman Africa was roughly the equivalent of modern Tunisia. *obtinere debebat*: as Caesar explains in the next chapter, Tubero was not able to take up his post in Africa.
3. *Caralitani*: inhabitants of Caralis (Cagliari) on the southern coast of Sardinia. *profecto*: sc. *illo* (Valerius).
4. *navis longas*: warships. *Lucanis Brutiisque*: inhabitants on the southwestern coast and “toe” of Italy. *certum numerum*: ie, a quota.
5. An interesting complaint from Cato, who was the leader of the senatorial faction that opposed making any concessions or accommodations with Caesar. *ex provincia fugit*: Cato fled Syracuse in late April and joined Pompey in Greece.

## Chapter 31

1. *eo*: “there,” ie, to Sicily and Sardinia, respectively.
2. *cum imperio*: Varus presumably held imperium as a legate of Pompey, but this still did not give him the right to take over someone else’s province. *usu*: “regular dealings” (OLD, *usus*, 10). *paucis ante annis*: the exact date of Varus’ propraetorship is not known.

3. **Hic**: Attius. **Uticam**: accusative of motion (AG §388b). Utica was the chief city of Roman Africa at this time. **portu atque oppido**: what type of ablative?

## Chapter 32

1. **urbem**: Rome. **proficiscitur**: Caesar probably left Brundisium on March 18.
2. **Coacto senatu**: M. Antonius and Q. Cassius summoned the senate on April 1. Cicero and many others refused to attend. **extraordinarium honorem**: an allusion to Pompey, who had held many special or “extraordinary” commands during his career. **exspectato legitimo tempore consulatus**: normally, a person could only be consul every ten years. **eo**: ie, the right to run for a consulship. **eo** is also the antecedent of **quod**. **contentum**: governs the ablative.
3. **Latum**: sc. **privilegium**, a special law that applied to only one person. This refers to the law passed in 52 (see 9.2) during Pompey’s consulship allowing Caesar to stand for the consulship in absentia. **pristina consuetudine**: ablative of manner. **dicendi mora**: ie, Cato drew out the debate by making lengthy speeches. **ut...haberetur**: describes the outcome of the law. **populi beneficio**: cf. 9.2.
4. **de exercitibus dimittendis ultro postulavisset**: On this offer/demand, see 9.3.
5. **quod ab altero postularent**: Caesar is criticizing his enemies for having demanded that he give up his commands without demanding the same of Pompey. **omnia permisceri**: ie, anarchy.
6. **in eripiendis legionibus**: the withdrawal of two of Caesar’s legions (one of which was technically Pompey’s) for the eastern front. See above on 2.3. **circumscribendis tribunis plebis**: see 5.
7. **quibus**: connecting relative.
8. **quod...dixisset**: it is not clear when Pompey made this remark, but perhaps during the proceedings discussed in 6. **ad...significari**: indirect statement of what Pompey said in the senate. **his**: antecedent of **quos**.
9. Now we return to the indirect statement of Caesar. **ut**: correlative, “as.”

## Chapter 33

2. **eodem...loco**: ablative of manner, “in the same way.”
3. **triduum**: a period of three days. L. Metellus: presumably, Metellus vetoed the acts of the senate, but he also blocked Caesar from accessing the treasury (see on 14.2). Caesar considered killing the tribune, but in the end simply ignored him. Contrast this with Caesar’s justifications for war at 7 and 32.6. **qui**: introduces a relative clause of purpose.
4. **quae agere destinaverat**: besides the embassy to Pompey, it is not clear what Caesar wanted from this brief stay in Rome, but it probably included some sort of approval from the senate for his actions. **proficiscitur**: probably on April 7. **ulteriorem Galliam**: Further Gaul, across the Alps from Italy.

I have made extensive use of the following in preparing this commentary:

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