Juvenal, Satire 3

Though he was one of Rome’s greatest writers, it is surprising how little is known about Juvenal’s life. His full name was probably Decimus Iunius Juvenalis. He was born at Aquinum, near Monte Cassino, probably in the reign of Nero (54-68 CE), but the exact date of either his birth or death is uncertain. Other than a few scattered references in Martial (ca. 45-104 CE), there is little evidence Juvenal was even well-known among his fellow Romans during his lifetime.

Juvenal’s first nine satires are the most powerful and least agreeable—establishing him as probably the most “politically incorrect” Roman poet if not also the most caustic. Fueled by the irrational or irresponsible behavior of foreigners, women, homosexuals and cruel and decadent rulers, Juvenal’s rage lashes out against greed, extravagance, vanity, stupidity, bad manners, urban blight and poetry recitals in August. It seems obvious why the poet must write satire, as he says in his own words: difficile est satiram non scribere (“it is difficult to not write satire”).

Our excerpt is taken from Juvenal’s Third Satire which is a rejection of city life in favor of bucolic simplicity. According to one modern critic, it is in this satire that his particular gift of vivid painting finds its best and bitterest observations about life in Rome.

Satire 3. 41-45

Quid Romae faciam? mentiri nescio; librum,
What will I do at Rome? I am unable to lie; if a book

si malus est, nequeo laudare et poscere; motâs
is bad, I am unable to praise and request (it); I don’t know

astrorum ignoro; funus promittere patris
the movements of the stars; neither am I willing

nec volo nec possum; ranarum viscera numquam
nor am I able to promise the funeral of a father; I have never examined

inspexi; . . .
the guts of frogs; . . .

[Continued on the next page]
Satire 3. 74-80

... ede quid illum
... Proclaim what you think

esse putes. Quemvis hominem secum attulit ad nos:
that man is. He has brought to us along with himself any man at all:

grammaticus, rhetor, geometres, pictor, aliptes,
grammar teacher, orator, architect, painter, personal trainer,

augur, schoenobates, medicus, magus — omnia novit
fortune-teller, tightrope walker, doctor, magician — the hungry little

Graeculus esuriens: in caelum, iussersis, ibit.
Greek knows all things: (if) you give the order, he will go into heaven.

In summa non Maurus erat neque Sarmata nec Thrax
In sum, it was not a Moroccan nor a Sarmatian nor a Thracian

qui sumpsit pinnas, mediis sed natus Athenis.
who put on wings, but a man born in the middle of Athens.

Satire 3.100-103

natio comoeda est. rides, maiore cachinno
The (whole) nation is a comedienne. (If) you laugh, he is rocked

concititur; flet, si lacrimas conspexit amici,
by bigger guffaw; he bewails, if he has beheld the tears of a friend,

nec dolet; igniculum brumae si tempore poscas,
but does not suffer pain; if you should ask for a little fire at the time of winter

accipit endromidem; si dixeris “aestuo,” sudat.
he seizes a warm-up suit; if you say, “I am hot,” he sweats.
Juvenal, Satire 3: Worksheet

a. The questions below pertain to the forms underlined in the passage

b. When you’re asked to change a word from one form to another, change only that form of the word. For instance, if you’re asked to change habet to the passive voice, make habet passive but leave it in the 3rd person singular, present indicative.

1. Change faciam to subjunctive. __________________________________________________________

2. Change mentiri to imperative (sing). ____________________________________________________

3. What mood is laudare and why? _______________________________________________________

4. Make poscere perfect. ________________________________________________________________

5. Make astrorum nominative. ____________________________________________________________

6. What case is funus and why? __________________________________________________________

7. Make patris plural. _____________________________________________________________________

8. Change volo to subjunctive. ____________________________________________________________

9. Make ede plural. _______________________________________________________________________

10. What mood is putes and why? ________________________________________________________

11. Change novit to pluperfect subjunctive. _________________________________________________

12. What case is caelum and why? ________________________________________________________

13. Change iussiris to present subjunctive. _________________________________________________

14. What case is qui and why? __________________________________________________________

15. Make sumpsit pluperfect plural. _______________________________________________________

[Continued on the next page]
16. Change natus to imperfect subjunctive (first person singular). _______________________

17. Make rides perfect plural. ______________________________________________________

18. Make concutitur imperfect (second person singular). ______________________________

19. Change flet to passive subjunctive. ______________________________________________

20. Make dolet future perfect. ____________________________________________________

21. What case is tempore and why? ________________________________________________

22. What mood is poscas and why? _________________________________________________

23. Change accipit to pluperfect subjunctive passive (2nd person, pl., masc.). __________

24. Change dixeris to perfect indicative. _____________________________________________

25. Make sudat future. ___________________________________________________________
# Juvenal: Satire 3: Notes and Vocabulary

## Satire 3.41-45

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Note/ Vocabulary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41.</td>
<td><strong>mentiri</strong>: mentior, -iri, mentitus sum: not tell the truth, lie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 42.  | **nequeo**: nequeo, -ire, -ivi, -itum: be unable  
**poscere**: posco, -ere, poposci: request, ask for  
**motus**: motus, -ās, m.: movement |
| 43.  | **astrorum**: astrum, -i, n.: star  
**ignoro**: ignosco, -noscere, -novi, -notum: not know  
**funus**: funus, -eris, n.: funeral  
**promittere**: promitto, -mittere, -misi, -missum: promise |
| 44.  | **ranarum**: rana, -ae, f.: frog  
**viscera**: viscus, -eris, m.: the internal organs; here, guts |
| 45.  | **inspexi**: inspicio, -spicere, -spexi, -spectum: examine |

## Satire 3.74-80

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>74.</td>
<td><strong>ede</strong>: edo, edere, edidi, editum: proclaim</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 75.  | **quemvis**: quivis, quaevis, quodvis: any at all  
**attulit**: adfero, adferre, attuli, adlatum: bring |
| 76.  | **grammaticus**: grammaticus, -i, m.: grammarian  
**rhetor**: rhetor, -oris, m.: orator  
**geometres**: geometres, -ae, m. (Greek form): architect  
**pictor**: pictor, -oris, m.: painter  
**aliptes**: aliptes, -ae, m.: person who put oil on wrestlers; here, personal trainer |
| 77.  | **augur**: augur, -uris, m/f.: interpreter of auspices; here, fortune-teller  
**schoenobates**: schoenobates, -ae, m. (Greek form): tightrope walker  
**medicus**: medicus, -i, m.: doctor  
**magus**: magus, -i, m.: magician |

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| 78. | **Graeculus**: *Graeculus, -a, -um*: a little Greek (diminutive of *Graecus*); here, the diminutive has a contemptuous sense  
*esuriens*: *esurio, -ire*: be hungry  
*iussersis*: future perfect for future, in a future more vivid condition  
*ibit*: *eo, ire, ivi, itum*: go (future third person singular) |
| 79. | **in summa**: *summa, -ae, f.*: the most important point; here, in sum  
*Maurus*: *Maurus, -a, -um*: Moroccan; Mauritania was a Roman province in North Africa  
*Sarmata*: *Sarmata, -ae, m.*: a Sarmatian; the Sarmatians lived in southern Russia  
*Thrax*: *Thrax, -acis, m.*: a Thracian; Thrace is in northern Greece |
| 80. | **sumpsit**: *sumo, -ere, sumpsi, sumptum*: put on  
*pinnas*: *pinna, -ae, f.*: feather; in plural, wing  
*Athenis*: *Athenae, -arum, f.*: Athens; here, locative case showing place where; Juvenal is alluding to Daedalus, the figure from Greek myth who flew from Crete to Italy on wings made of wax and feathers |

**Satire 3.100-103**

<table>
<thead>
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| 100. | **natio**: *natio, -onis, f.*: nation, i.e. Greece  
**comoeda**: *comoedus, -a, -um*: comic; here, a feminine substantive meaning “comedienne”  
**cachinno**: *cachinnus, -i, m.*: loud laughter, guffaw |
| 101. | **concutituir**: *concutio, -cutere, -cussi, -cussum*: shake violently, rock  
**flet**: *fleo, flere, flevi, fletum*: bewail  
**lacrimas**: *lacrima, -ae, f.*: a tear  
**conspexit**: *conspicio, -spicere, -spexi, -spectum*: behold |
| 102. | **dolet**: *doleo, -ere, dolui, doliturus*: suffer pain  
**igniculum**: *igniculus, i, m.*: a little fire (diminutive of *ignis*)  
**brumae**: *bruma, -ae, f.*: winter |
| 103. | **endromidem**: *endromis, -idis, f.*: a rough cloak worn by athletes after exercises to keep warm; here, a warm-up suit  
**dixeris**: see *iussersis*, 78  
**aestuo**: *aestuo* (1): be hot  
**sudat**: *sudo* (1): sweat |