

Writing Greek and Latin
LT 06 Week 8
Dr C. Weiss

TOP TEN (plus!) ERRORS IN LATIN PROSE COMPOSITION

much of this information is available on this website

1. failure to review with fresh eyes: try to read the piece as a real piece of Latin
2. word for word or part of speech for part of speech approach
3. failure to be clear on meaning of English, unwillingness or inability to retool the English, inability to match this with simple and natural Latin
4. faulty inflection in nouns and adjectives (+ non-agreement)
5. unnatural vocabulary: English derivatives too common
6. overcondensation: no demonstratives or pronouns or hendiadys
7. underuse of relative clauses
8. *se* and *is* confusion
9. participles underused
10. ablative absolute should normally be “absolute” from action of same clause
11. unwillingness to use acc. + inf. (think of it as characteristically Latin)
12. unnecessary subjunctives and general confusion re subjunctives
13. infinitives abused to express purpose
14. confusion re conditional sentences
15. failure to connect sentences with particles (not as freq. as Gk but still important)
16. *populus* for indefinite “people”