

SCANNING WORKSHEET — CATULLUS 49

AN ADDITIONAL SCANNING RULE

If a word ends in a vowel, or a vowel + m, AND the next word begins with a vowel or initial “h”, the first vowel, and the “m” or “h” will be neither pronounced nor scanned. This is called elision and is marked thus: *vento* et. Although it may seem odd, a syllable formed by elision is not necessarily long. N.B. Elision occurs **within** a line, **not between** lines.

There are a few exceptions to this exception:

- If the 2nd word is *est*, the *e* in *est* is elided instead of the final vowel or -m syllable; e.g. *tuum est* > *tuum'st*, not *tu'est*
- If the -m syllable is long by nature, it usually will not be elided.
- Hiatus is when elision ought to occur, but doesn't. It creates a **strong** break in the line.

METRICAL PATTERN FOR HENDECASYLLABLES

x x | — x | — uu | — u | — u | — x (x indicates the syllabus can be long or short)

CATULLUS 49

Dīsertissime Rōmulī nepōtum,

quot sunt quotque fuere, Marce Tullī,

quotque post aliīs erunt in annīs,

grātiās tibi maximās Catullus

agit, pessimus omnium poēta,

tantō pessimus omnium poēta

quantō tū optimus omnium patrōnus.