

Notes

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The Alphabet and Pronunciation

Vowels

Long

**ā** as in *father*: **dās, cārā**

**ē** as in *they*: **mē, sēdēs**

**ī** as in *machine*: **hīc, sīca**

**ō** as in *clover*: **ōs, mōres**

**ū** as in *rude*: **tū, sūmo**

y as in French **tu** or German **über**

Short

**a** as in *Dinah*: **dat, casa**

**e** as in *pet*: **et, sed**

**i** as in *pin*: **hic, sicca**

**o** as in *orb*, off: **os, mora**

**u** as in *put*: **tum, sum**

Diphthongs

**ae** as *ai* in *aisle*: **cārae, saepe**

**au** as *ou* in *house*: **aut, laudō**

**ei** as in *reign*: **deinde**

**eu** as Latin **e + u**, pronounced rapidly as a single syllable: **seu**

The sound is not found in English and is rare in Latin.

**oe** as *oi* in *oil*: **coepit, proelium**

**ui** as in Latin **u + i**, spoken as a single syllable like panish *muy* (or like Eng. *gooey*, pronounced quickly as a single syllable). This diphthong occurs only in **huius, cuius, huic, cui, hui**.

Elsewhere the two letters are spoken separately as in **fu-it, frūctu-ī**

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Consonants

**bs** and **bt** were pronounced *ps* and *pt* (e.g., **urbs, obtineō**); otherwise Latin **b** had the same sound as our letter (e.g., **bibēbant**).

**c** was always hard as in *can*, never soft as in *city*: **cum, cīvis, facilis**.

**g** was always hard as in *get*, never soft as in *gem*: **glōria, gerō**.

**h** was a breathing sound, as in English, only less harshly pronounced: **hic, haec**

**i** (which also represented a vowel) usually functioned as a consonant with the sound of *y* as in *yes* when used before a vowel at the beginning of a word (**iustus** = *yustus*); between two vowels within a word it served in double capacity: as the vowel *i* forming a diphthong with the preceding vowel, and as the consonant *y* (**reiectus** = *rei-yectus*, **maior** = *mai-yor*, **cuius** = *cui-yus*); otherwise it was usually a vowel. Consonantal **i** regularly appears in English derivatives as a *j* (a letter added to the alphabet in the Middle Ages); hence **maior** = *major*, **Iulius** = *Julius*.

**q**, as in English, is always followed by consonantal *u*, the combination having the sound *kw*:

**quid, quoque**.

**r** was trilled; the Romans called it the **littera canīna**, because its sound suggested the snarling of a dog: **Rōma, cūrāre**.

**s** was always voiceless as in *see*; never voiced as in our word *ease*: **sed, posuissēs, mīsistis**.

**t** always had the sound of *t* as in *tired*, never of *sh* in *nation* or *ch* in *mention*: **taciturnitās, nātiōnem, mentiōnem**.

**v** had the sound of our *w*: **vīvō** = *wīwō*, **vīnum** = *wīnum*.

**x** had the sound of *ks* as in *axle*; not of *gz* as in *exert*: **mixtum, exerceō**.

**ch** represented Greek *chi* and had the sound of *ckh* in *block head* , not of *ch* in *church*: **chorus**, **Archilochus**.

**ph** represented Greek *phi* and had the sound of *ph* in *up hill*, not of *ph* in our pronunciation of *philosophy*: **philosophia**.

**th** represented Greek *theta* and had the sound of *th* in *hot house*, not of *th* in *thin* or *the*: **theātrum**.

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## VERBS

One might properly consider the verb (from Lat. **verbum**, *word* ), which describes the subject's activity or state of being, to be the most important word in a sentence, and so we best begin our study of Latin with a look at that part of speech (the other parts of speech of Latin are the same as those in English: nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections.)

In Latin as in English, verbs exhibit the following five characteristics:

**PERSON** (Lat. **Persóna**): who is the subject, i.e., who performs (or, in the passive, receives) the action, from the speaker's point of view; 1<sup>st</sup> person = the speaker(s), *I, we*; 2<sup>nd</sup> = the person(s) spoken to, *you*; 3<sup>rd</sup>=the person(s) spoken about, *he, she, it they*.

**NUMBER** (**numerous**): how many subjects, singular or plural.

**TENSE** (**tempus**, *time*): the time of the action; Latin has six tenses, present, future, imperfect, perfect (or present perfect), future perfect, and pluperfect (or past perfect)

**MOOD** (**modus**, *manner*): the manner of indicating the action or state of being of the verb; like English, Latin has the indicative (which "indicates" fact) and the imperative (which orders action), introduced in this chapter, and the subjunctive (which describes, in particular, hypothetical or potential actions), introduced in Ch. 28.

**VOICE** (**vox**): an indication, with transitive verbs (those that can take direct objects), of whether the subject performs the action (the active voice) or receives it (passive)

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## CONJUGATION

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> person	I praise	we praise
2 <sup>nd</sup> person	you praise	you praise
3 <sup>rd</sup> person	he (she, it) praises	they praise

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## PRESENT INFINITIVE ACTIVE AND PRESENT STEM

The present active infinitives of the model verbs used in this book for the first and second conjugations are respectively:

laudáre, *to praise*

monére, *to advise*

You see that -are characterizes the first conjugation and -ere characterizes the second.

Now from the infinitives drop the -re which is the actual infinitive ending, and you have the “present stems”:

laudā-            monē-

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### VOCABULARY

**me**, pronoun, *me, myself*

**quid**, pronoun, *what* (quid pro quo)

**nihil**, noun, *nothing* (nihilism, annihilate)

**non**, adverb, *not*

**saepe**, adverb, *often*

**si**, conjunction, *if*

**ámō, amāre, amāvī, amātum**, *to love, like; amābo te*, idiom, *please* (lit., *I will love you*) (amatory, Amanda)

**cōgitō, cōgitāre, cōgitāvī, cōgitātum**, *to think, ponder, consider, plan* (cognitate)

**dēbeō, dēbere, dēbuī, dēbitum**, *to owe; ought, must* (debt, debit, due, duty)

**dō, dare, dedī, dátum**, *to give, offer* (date, data)

**errō, errāre, errāvī, errātum**, *to wonder, err, go astray, be mistaken* (erratic, errant, erroneous, error, aberration)

**Sálveō, salvēre, to be well, be in good in health; sálvē, salveté**, *hello, greetings* (salvation, salver, salvage)

**sérvō, servāre, servāvī, servātum**, *to preserve, save, keep, guard*

(observe, preserve, reserve, reservoir)

**cōservō, cōservāre, cōservāvī, cōservātum (con-servō)**, a stronger form of **servō**, *to preserve, conserve, maintain* (conservative, conservation)

**térreō, terrēre, terruī, territum**, *to frighten, terrify* (terrible, terrific, terrify, terror, terrorist, deter)

**váleō, valēre, válui, valitūrum**, *to be strong, have power, be well; válē (valēte)*, *good-bye, farewell* (valid, invalidate, prevail, prevalent, valedictory)

**videō, vidēre, vídī, vísum**, *to see; observe, understand* (provide, evident, view, review, revise, revision, television)

**vócō, vocāre, vocāvī, vocātum**, *to call, summon* (vocation, advocate, vocabulary, convoke, evoke, invoke, provoke, revoke)

### SENTENTIAE (SENTENCES)

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Quid agis hodie? *How are you today?*

Optime! *Great!*

Pessime! *Terrible!*

Bene! *Good*

Satis bene. *So-so or okay*

Non bene. *Not well.*

Et tu? *And you?*

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The following table lists some Romance cardinal numbers derived from Latin.

<b>Latin</b>	<b>Italian</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	<b>French</b>
ūnus	un(o)	un(o)	un
duo	due	dos	deux
trēs	tre	tres	trois
quattuor	quattro	cuatro	quatre
quīnque	cinque	cinco	cinq
sex	sei	seis	six
septem	sette	siete	sept
octō	otto	ocho	huit
novem	nove	nueve	neuf
decem	dieci	diez	dix
ūndecim	undici	once	onze
duodecim	dodici	doce	douze
centum	cento	ciento	cent
mīlle	mille	mil	mille

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tua, pronoun, *your*

**Prepositions:**

in	in, on
sine	without
ab	by, from
cum	with
de	from
post	after, behind
ad	to

**Interjections:**

O! Oh!

**Conjunctions:**

et	and
sed	but

**Verbs:**

festinare	to hasten, make haste
culpare	to blame
peccare	to sin
respondere	to reply, respond
volare	to fly, move quickly
deportare	to carry away
recusare	to refuse, reject
vitare	to avoid
iubere	to order
creare	to create

onerare	to load, oppress
timere	to fear
obdurare	to be firm, tough
basiare	to kiss
est	is

**Nouns:**

filius(m.)	son
filia(f.)	daughter
agricola(m.)	farmer
rota	wheel
catena	chair
avaritia	greed, avarice
insania	unsoundness, insanity
ars	art
clementia	clemency
venia	favor, pardon
vir(m.)	man, hero
sapientia(f.)	wisdom
populus(m.)	the people, a people, a nation
Romanus	Roman
pualla(f.)	girl
rosa(f.)	rose
pecunia(f.)	money
patria(f.)	country
poeta(m.)	poet
nauta(m.)	sailor
auriga(m.)	charioteer
incola(m.)	inhabitant
pirata(m.)	pirate
vita(f.)	life, made of life
sententia(f.)	feeling, thought, opinion, vote, sentence
porta(f.)	gate, entrance
poena(f.)	penalty, punishment
philosophia(f.)	love of wisdom, Greek philosophia
fama(f.)	rumor, report, fame, reputation
forma(f.)	form, shape, beauty
fortuna(f.)	fortune, luck
ira(f.)	ire, anger

**Adjectives:**

hic	this
ille	that
multa	much, many
mea	my
magna	large, great, important
antiqua	ancient, old time
semper	always
saeva	cruel

nulla	no
inmodica	immoderate, excessive
sana	sound, sane
pauci, paucae	(usually plural) few, a few

**Adverbs:**

lente	slowly
bis	twice
cito	quickly
hodie	today

**Foods, and such:**

Ipomoea batatas	sweet potatoe
Ananas sativus	pine apple
cucurbita pepo	pumpkin
chrysophyllum cainito	star apple
Lycopersicum esculentum	tomato
Anacardium occidentale	cashew nut
nicotiana tabacum(also Nicotiana rutica)	tobacco
gossypium bardadense(also gossypium hirsutum)	cotton
Erythroxylum coca	cocaine(mountain people of Peru chewed the leaves
to give strength on journeys)	
Anhalonium williamsii	peyote
aurea mediocritas	the golden mean
summum bonum	the highest good
mores	morality
poenas dare(idiom)	pay the penalty

**Numbers:**

tredecim  
 quattuordecim  
 quindecim  
 sedecim  
 septendecim  
 duodeviginti  
 undeviginti  
 viginti  
 viginti unos  
 triginta  
 quadraginta  
 quinquaginta  
 sexaginta  
 septuaginta  
 octaginta  
 nonaginta

**Latin Sayings:**

Quid est tibi nomen                      What is your name?

Ego te amo	I love you
Tu me amas	You love me
Subpoena	"under penalty"
Usufruct	"the fruit by use"
ca., circa	about, approximately
Poculum Caritatis	loving cup
in vino veritas	in wine there is truth

**Latin State and College Mottos:**

E pluribus unum	Out of many, one
Annuit coeptis	He nods approval of beginnings
Novus ordo seclorum	A new order of the ages
Nul sine numine	Nothing without God(Colorado)
Iustitia omnibus	Justice for all(D.C.)
Esto perpetua	Be always(Idaho)
Crescit eundo	It grows as it grows(New Mexico)
Alis volat propriis	He flies with his own wings(Oregon)
Joannes est nomen eius	John is his name(Puerto Rico)
Dum spiro, spero	While I breathe, I hope(South Carolina)
Montani semper liberi	(West Virginia)
Terras irradiant	Let them illumine the Earth(Amherst)
In Deo Speramus	In God We Trust(Brown)
Voc clamantis in deserto	A voice of one crying in the dessert(Dartmouth)
Veritas vos liberbit	The truth will free you(John Hopkins)
Lux sit!	Let there be light(Univ. of Washington)
Lux et veritas	Light and Truth(Yale)
Cogito, ergo sum	I think, therefore I am
Fabas indulcet fames	Hunger sweetens the beans
Vincit qui se vincit	He conquors who conquers himself
Carpe diem	sieze the day
Amor vincit omnia	Love conquers all
Etiam capillus unus habe umbram	Even one has a shadow
Dios Patria Libertad	(Dominican Republic)
in ipsum credimus	We believe in him
Filius Patri similis est	The son is like the father
Eritis odio eis	They will hate you(You will be for the purpose of hatred with
reference to them)	
clamavit magna voce	He shouted with a great voice
vitas nostras vivimus	we live our own lives