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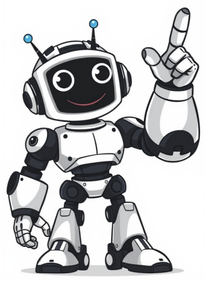

In the 5th century BC, Latin was just one of many Italic languages spoken in central Italy. Latin was the language of the area known as Latium (modern Lazio), and Rome was one of the towns of Latium. The earliest known inscriptions in Latin date from the 6th century BC and were written using an alphabet adapted from the Etruscan alphabet. Rome gradually expanded its influence over other parts of Italy and then over other parts of Europe. Eventually the Roman Empire stretched across a wide swathe of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Latin was used throughout the empire as the language of law, administration and increasingly as the language of everyday life. Literacy was common among Roman citizens and the works of great Latin authors were read by many. Meanwhile in the eastern Mediterranean, Greek remained the lingua franca and well-educated Romans were familiar with both languages. In fact the earliest surviving examples of Latin literature are Latin translations of Greek plays, and Cato's farming manual, which dates from 150 BC. The language used in much early Latin literature, classical Latin, differed in many ways from colloquial spoken Latin, known as vulgar Latin, though some writers, including Cicero and Petronius, used vulgar Latin in their work. Over the centuries the spoken varieties of Latin continued to move away from the literary standard and eventually evolved into the modern Italic/Romance languages (Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Romanian, Catalan, etc). Even after the collapse of the western Roman Empire in 476 AD, Latin continued to be used as a literary language throughout western and central Europe. An enormous quantity of medieval Latin literature was produced in a variety of different styles ranging from the scholarly works of Irish and Anglo-Saxon writers to simple tales and sermons for a wider audience. During the 15th century, Latin began to lose its dominant position as the main language of scholarship and religion throughout Europe. It was largely replaced by written versions of the vernacular languages of Europe, many of which are descendants of Latin or have been heavily influenced by it. Modern Latin was used by the Roman Catholic Church until the mid 20th century and is still used to some extent, particularly in the Vatican City, where it is one of the official languages. Latin terminology is used extensively by biologists, palaeontologists and other scientists to name species and specimens, and also by doctors and lawyers. A few schools teach Classical Latin as a spoken language, and there are currently maybe 100 or so people who speak it fluently. Classical Latin alphabet for Latin Hear the Classical Latin alphabet There were no lower case letters, I and V could be used as both vowels and consonants, and K, Y and Z were used only for writing words of Greek origin. The letters J, U and W were added to the alphabet at a later stage to write languages other than Latin. J is a variant of I and was first used during the 16th century by Petrus Ramus. U is a variant of V. In Latin the /u/ sound was written with the letter v, e.g. IVLIVS (Julius). W was originally a doubled v (vv) and was first used by scribes writing Old English during the 7th century AD, however the Runic letter Wynn () was more commonly used to write the /w/ sound. After the Norman Conquest the letter W became more popular and had replaced Wynn by 1300. More information about the origins of the Latin letters Reconstructed pronunciation of Classical Latin Notes Vowel length was not indicated in writing, though in modern editions of Classical texts a macron () is used for long vowels. Short vowels in medial position are pronounced differently: E as [], O as [], I as [] and V as []. Ecclesiastical (Church) Latin pronunciation Notes Doubled vowels are pronunced separately. C = [] before ae, oe, e, i or y, and [k] elsewhere G = [] before ae, oe, e, i or y, and [g] elsewhere H is silent, except in mihi and nihil, where it is pronounced /k/ S = [z]between vowels SC = [] before ae, oe, e, i or y, and [sk] elsewhere TI = [tsi] before a vowel and preceded by any letter except s, t or x, and [ti] elsewhere. U = [w] when it follows q V = [v] at the start of a syllable X = [gs] at the beginning of a word, followed by a vowel, and [ks] when followed by a consonant or at the end of a word. Information about the pronunciation of Classical and Ecclesiastical Latin: Download alphabet charts for Latin (Excel) More information about the Latin alphabet Sample text in Old / Archaic Latin Transliteration Opns hemones decnotti et iouesi louberoi et pars gnscontor, rationes et comscientis particapes sont, quibos enter sd comcordis studd agontinom est. Translated by Giorgio Nagy Sample text in Classical Latin Omnes homines dignitate et iure liberi et pares nascuntur, rationis et conscientiae participes sunt, quibus inter se concordiae studio est agendum. Listen to a recording of this text with Classical Latin pronunciation by Connor Ferguson Hear another recording of this text with Classical Latin pronunciation by Matthew Leigh Embleton Listen to a recording of this text with Ecclesiastical Latin pronunciation by Crawford J. Bennett, Jr. Sample text in Vulgar Latin Omne homnes nascuntu liberi e pares dignitat e jure, sunt da rationis e conscientiae, e agendu inter spiritu de fraternitat. IPA transcription /mnes mnes nsknt leri e ekules n dtte ed derktos. snt dotti de ratsne e nma ed dent are nter s komo frtres/ Hear another recording of this text by Matthew Leigh Embleton Translation by Matthew Leigh Embleton Translation All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood. (Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) Sample videos Latin alphabet | Latin language | Phrases | Numbers | Time | Tower of Babel | Articles | Links | Learning materials Latin language resources on Amazon Links Information about Latin kemmer/Words04/structure/latin.html Online Latin lessons and other learning resources New York City Latin tutors More Latin-related links ALPHABETUM - a Unicode font for ancient scripts, including Classical & Medieval Latin, Ancient Greek, Etruscan, Oscan, Umbrian, Faliscan, Messapic, Picene, Iberian, Celtiberian, Gothic, Runic, Old & Middle English, Hebrew, Sanskrit, Old Nordic, Ogham, Kharosthi, Glagolitic, Anatolian scripts, Phoenician, Brahmi, Imperial Aramaic, Old Turkic, Old Permic, Ugaritic, Linear B, Phaistos Disc, Meroitic, Coptic, Cypriot and Avestan. Italic languages Faliscan, Latin, Oscan, South Picene, Umbrian Languages written with the Latin alphabet Page last modified: 09.06.24 [top] You can support this site by Buying Me A Coffee, and if you like what you see on this page, you can use the buttons below to share it with people you know. If you like this site and find it useful, you can support it by making a donation via PayPal or Patreon, or by contributing in other ways. Omniglot is how I make my living. Note: all links on this site to Amazon.com, Amazon.co.uk and Amazon.fr are affiliate links. This means I earn a commission if you click on any of them and buy something. So by clicking on these links you can help to support this site. [top] HomeNon-FictionLatin FictionModern TranslationsLatin ReadersResources Start learning Latin with a free email course from Latin teacher and speaker Daniel Pettersson, M.A. Get 10 tips and principles for learning Latin. Learning Latin is no easy taskat least if you want to read Latin well. Its hard to find the right method and materials, but learning Latin is a rewarding and fun adventure.I know. Ive done it and helped many students do thesame. My name is Daniel Pettersson, M.A. Ive Latin taught Latin for 10 years, privately and at university courses in Europe and in the US. Now I help people learn to speak Latin and read it without translating and hunting for theverb.Latin is a language and I teach it as such. I speak Latin and read without translating all the time (Here is talk in Latin I gave on the subject.)But it was not always like that. During my university studies reading without translating seemed impossible, but it couldnt becountless people for the last 2 millennia had doneit.So, I decided to find another way. And I did. And now I can speak, read and teach Latin with great ease. Latinitium is built on a firm belief that you can learn to understand Latin as Latin if you have good motivation, method, and material.Our goals areto:show how to succeed with learningLatinprovide you with a great source of reading and listening materialhelp you discover the history and literature tied toLatinSo, if you want to learn Latin well, or are hunting for things to read, listen or watch in Latin, you are in the rightplace.Lets begin!/ Daniel Pettersson Recent articles and videos Here is what we have found to be the best way to read a Latin text whether beginner or advanced inside or outside of Legentibus (our app with loads of Latin texts for all levels with text synced with audio an in-book dictionaries).A March of Condemned Souls This story is an exceptional episode from the Ecclesiastical History, written bytheRoman historian and politician, Gaius Sallustius Crispus, to many known as Sallust, wrote Bellum Written by PamelaLatinitium is an extraordinary resource for improving ones Latin language skills while deepening ones cultural appreciation and having a very good time in the process. Daniel, an experienced university teacher and a gifted storyteller brings ancient, Medieval and Renaissance authors to life in readings limned with points of grammar, recondite vocabulary and historical background. Read more-> Si forte nos, in sublime tendentes ad montis verticem, deciens praecipites devolvamur, immo centies, milliens, totiens ardentius ac inflammatiore spiritu iter idem arripiemus, ad eundem verticem terrarum advolabimus. Ringelbergius, De ratione studii Join our community and get access to weekly videos in Latin, early access to videos, and audiobooks.Suggest and vote on video topics and which audiobooks you would like tohave. Reading or listening to a large amount of Latin that is both easily comprehensible and enjoyable is necessary for mastering the language.Listen to and read Latin anywhere with the Legentibus app for smartphones and tablets. Here you will find four online Latin dictionaries; Lewis & Shorts Latin-English dictionary, Smith & Halls English-Latin dictionary, Dderleins Handbook of Latin synonyms, and Ogilvies treatise on Latin synonyms,Horae Latinae.We have gathered them in the same place so that you can freely use and search them all at once while reading, learning, writing and translatingLatin. Latin is not the best way to make money, as they would have you believe. Latinitium exists because people like you buy our products, join our community, or donate.We have many planned projects for Latin learners and teachers, which require much time and resources.Our passion is great but our resources very limited. If you find Latinitium useful, please consider making a donation by clicking the buttonbelow. Latinitium.com is run by Daniel Pettersson and Amelie Rosengren. We also host guest writers from inside of academia and outside. (1) Start by writing down clearly why you want to learn Latin. This will help to motivate you later if things get tough. (2) Get the essential books starting with Familia Romana I with the exercise book. (3) Now, establish a daily study habit, and diligently work your way through the book doing all the exercises, and rereading each chapter many times, until you understand everything with ease. To learn faster, read and listen to our easy stories in Easy Latin retelling myths and stories from antiquity, the bible, and norse mythology . Our easiest materials is our growing library of Beginner storiesavailable in our Latin audiobook & ebook app Legentibus. They all have (1) Latin text, (2) Recording, (3) Word-for-word translation, (4) commentary. Latin is a language, and to learn a language very well you have to read and listen to as much of it as possible, you have to get what second language researchers call comprehensible input, material that you can understand without translating. However, the extant Latin literature is generally too difficult for most learners to read in this way. They need bridging materials that are easier but still use the same style and grammar. The videos, articles, and audiobooks in Latin here help to provide that bridge. We are very adamant about using attested language from classical literature, which is what most students want toread.Therefor, all our videos, articles, and books use the words, expressions, and syntax that is found in Classical literature. Since the videos are usually extemporaneous, the sentences are briefer, more akin to the language of Roman playwrights, than to the long and windy sentences of Roman oratory. If you know Latin well, its the closest thing to time travel: you can read texts written by people who lived in ancient Rome 2000 years ago, or by people who lived in the middle ages during the black plague, or the renaissance during the 16th and 17th centuriesthe first descriptions of newly discovered places, plants, and animals. It is an endless source of fascination. Yes. Or rather, Latin is immortal. Latin as a living natural language, subject to natural change over time, evolved into the Romance languages, such as French, Italian, and Spanish.However, Latin as the language of learning, of the church, of literature, and diplomacy continued through the middle ages and the renaissance into the 18th century. Since Latin was no longer the native language of anyone, it was fairly stable and did not change much (with some exceptions).Even today we are many who speak Latin as a means to better learn the languageand also because it isfun. As a general rule, to master Latin as to be able to read most classical literature with relative ease and little translation takes around five years of diligent study (multiple hours a day). Factors such as method, dedication, and experience will impact on the time it takes to learnLatin.If you want to get a grasp of the language, for fun, or for some light historical research, you can do with six months studying a few hours eachday. If you want to learn to speak Latin in a way that actually helps you read Latin literature, it will take many years of study, because you have to speak using the same grammar and vocabulary that the literature does. By constantly using a word or phrase incorrectly in speaking, you may, when reading, misunderstand the same word or phrase. This is not a big problem, if you always read a lot of idiomatic Latin, as it will reinforce historicalusage.If you want to get get a grasp of the language, for fun, or for some light historical research, you can do with six months studying a few hours eachday. It takes many years to be able to read classical Latin literature well, without translating and analysing the grammar of every other sentence. It takes time because Latin literature, especially classical Roman literature, was written for a highly educated elite, who enjoyed a polished, elegant language. In addition, the completley alien historical context of Rome 2000 years ago requires us to learn an immense amount about the history and culture to able to understand texts well. Thus learning Latin well is de facto understanding the historical context.If you want to get get a grasp of the language, for fun, or for some light historical research, you can do with six months studying a few hours eachday. No, but add to it. The best way to learn Latin is to read as much Latin as possible at your level, so that you can read or listen to a text and understand it fairly well without translating.Combine this type of easier reading with traditional grammar study and some translation and you will master Latin at a very high level. Yes and no. If you read Classical Latin literature, and especially poetry, you should strive to learn to pronounce short and long vowels as well as double consonants. These things will ensure that you can read classical poetry and enjoy its rhythm which is built on the interplay between long and short syllables. Dont worry about the precise sound of a particular vowel, unless you are fascinated by that type of thing. If you only want to read medieval Latin, you could spend less time with vowel length, even though it is easily learned from listening to good recordings. Daniel is a Latin teacher who has taught Latin for the past decade using a combination of spoken Latin and traditional methods. He commonly speaks at Latin conferences, and has taught university courses in Latin in Europe and in the US. Currently he is researching 16th century Latin school dialogues and their pedagogy. He believes in learning Latin methodically and accurately while still having a lot of fun. Join the Latinitium newsletter because we regularly send out tips, updates and learning material. Get a glimpse of what we're working on and what's coming next to enhance your Latin learning experience.- More practice charts - Some Time 2025 The Lapis Niger, likely the oldest surviving Latin inscription, dates to around 600 BC in Romes semi-legendary Kingdom era.Latin, known as Lingua Latina or Latinum, is a classical language that originated in the region of Latium, present-day Lazio in Italy. It belonged to the Italic branch of the Indo-European language family and was spoken by the Latins, the early inhabitants of the region. Over centuries, Latin evolved, became the dominant language of the Roman Republic, and later spread throughout the Roman Empire.The Origins and Spread of LatinThe history of Latin is deeply intertwined with the rise and expansion of Rome. Initially spoken by a small community in Latium, Latin grew in prominence as Rome established its dominance over the Italian Peninsula. Through conquest and cultural assimilation, Latin spread across vast territories, including Gaul (modern-day France), Hispania (Spain and Portugal), and parts of North Africa and the Middle East. Roman governance and administration reinforced the use of Latin, leading to its establishment as the lingua franca of the empire.Evolution of LatinOld Latin (Archaic Latin)Old Latin refers to the earliest recorded form of the language, which was in use from the founding of Rome in 753 BCE until around 75 BCE. The oldest Latin inscriptions, such as the Lapis Niger in Rome, provide valuable insight into the phonetic and grammatical structure of the language at this stage. Old Latin was influenced by the Etruscan and Greek languages, evident in its alphabet and vocabulary. Literary works of this period, including the plays of Plautus and Terence, showcase a language that is markedly different from the later standardized Classical Latin.Classical LatinBy the late Roman Republic (75 BCE 200 CE), Latin had developed into a highly structured language known as Classical Latin. This was the language of Romes greatest poets, orators, and historians, including Virgil, Cicero, Ovid, and Livy.The influence of Greek literature and philosophy is evident in Classical Latin, particularly in rhetorical and philosophical works.This period also saw the codification of Latin grammar, with extensive rules governing syntax, morphology, and pronunciation. The refined nature of Classical Latin made it the preferred form for formal writing and public discourse.Greatest Roman Historians and their Major WorksVulgar LatinUnlike Classical Latin, which was primarily used in literary and official contexts, Vulgar Latin was the spoken dialect of the common people. It exhibited significant regional variations and was less rigid in terms of grammar and vocabulary. Many inscriptions and documents from the period provide glimpses into the informal, everyday usage of Latin. Vulgar Latin eventually evolved into the various Romance languages, such as Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Romanian.Late Latin and Medieval LatinFollowing the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 CE, Latin continued to be used, albeit with significant transformations. Late Latin (3rd to 6th century CE) represented a transition from Classical Latin to Medieval Latin. It was characterized by syntactic simplifications and increased Greek influence due to the rise of Christianity. The Catholic Church played a crucial role in preserving and adapting Latin, using it as the primary language of theology, scholarship, and administration throughout the Middle Ages.Medieval Latin (9th to 15th century CE) saw widespread use across Europe in academic, religious, and legal contexts. During this period, Latin absorbed words from Germanic and Slavic languages, and although it remained the dominant written language, its spoken form was replaced by emerging vernacular languages.Renaissance and Neo-LatinDuring the Renaissance (14th to 17th century), scholars sought to revive the purity of Classical Latin, leading to the development of Renaissance Latin. This period saw the rediscovery of classical texts, which influenced education and intellectual discourse. Latin was widely used in scientific and philosophical works, including Isaac Newtons Principia Mathematica.Neo-Latin (16th to 19th century) extended the legacy of Latin into the modern era, as it was employed in diplomatic, academic, and scientific fields. By the early 19th century, however, national languages had largely supplanted Latin in most contexts, except within the Catholic Church and specialized academic disciplines. Julius Caesars Commentarii de Bello Gallico is among the most renowned classical Latin works of the Golden Age. Senators who conspired to kill Julius CaesarThe Structure and Grammar of LatinLatin GrammarLatin is a highly inflected language, meaning that word endings change to convey grammatical relationships. This contrasts with English, which relies more on word order and auxiliary words.Nouns are categorized into five declensions, with variations in case (nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, ablative, vocative, and locative), number (singular and plural), and gender (masculine, feminine, neuter).Verbs belong to four main conjugations and have complex tense, mood, and voice structures. Latin features six tenses (present, imperfect, future, perfect, pluperfect, future perfect), three moods (indicative, subjunctive, imperative), and two voices (active and passive).Adjectives agree with nouns in case, number, and gender and follow either first-and-second declension or third-declension patterns.Word Order in Latin is flexible due to its inflectional nature. The typical sentence structure follows Subject-Object-Verb (SOV), but variations occur for emphasis and poetic effect.The Latin AlphabetThe Latin alphabet evolved from the Etruscan and Greek scripts, originally comprising 21 letters. Over time, letters such as G, J, U, W, and Y were introduced. The alphabet eventually became the foundation for many modern writing systems, including English and other European languages.The Influence of Latin on Modern LanguagesRomance LanguagesThe most direct descendants of Latin are the Romance languages, which developed from Vulgar Latin dialects. Spanish, French, Portuguese, Italian, and Romanian are among the most widely spoken Romance languages today. These languages retain much of Latins vocabulary, phonetic patterns, and grammatical structures.Latin Loanwords in EnglishAlthough English is a Germanic language, it has borrowed extensively from Latin, particularly through Old French following the Norman Conquest of 1066. Many words related to law (justice), medicine (doctor), science (species), and religion (sacred) have Latin origins. Additionally, Latin phrases such as per capita, et cetera, and status quo remain in common use.Latin in Science, Law, and ReligionLatins role in scientific nomenclature is particularly significant. The binomial classification system, established by Carl Linnaeus, uses Latin names for species (e.g., Homo sapiens). Legal terminology also retains numerous Latin phrases, such as habeas corpus, pro bono, and in loco parentis.In religion, Ecclesiastical Latin remains the official language of the Vatican and the Roman Catholic Church. The Tridentine Mass (Latin Mass) and official Church documents are still produced in Latin, maintaining the languages sacred and universal status within Catholicism.The Legacy of LatinLatin has left an indelible mark on Western civilization. It shaped literature, philosophy, governance, and education for centuries. Even today, Latin is taught in schools and universities worldwide, fostering an appreciation for classical heritage and linguistic precision.Although Latin is no longer a spoken vernacular, its legacy endures in the Romance languages, scientific discourse, legal frameworks, and religious traditions. The influence of Latin is evident in modern English, academia, and cultural expressions, securing its place as one of the most historically significant languages of all time.The Origins of Language How did Latin spread beyond Italy?Latin spread through Roman conquest and administration, becoming the dominant language across the Roman Empire, including regions like Gaul, Hispania, and parts of North Africa and the Middle East.What are the main stages of Latins evolution?Latin evolved through several stages: Old Latin (before 75 BCE), Classical Latin (75 BCE 200 CE), Vulgar Latin (spoken form that evolved into Romance languages), Late Latin (3rd6th centuries CE), Medieval Latin (9th15th centuries CE), and Renaissance/Neo-Latin (14th19th centuries CE).What is the difference between Classical and Vulgar Latin?Classical Latin was the formal, written language used in literature and rhetoric, while Vulgar Latin was the colloquial spoken form that varied by region and later evolved into the Romance languages.Why is Latin still used in science, law, and religion?Latin remains important in scientific taxonomy, legal terminology, and the Catholic Church. It provides a universal, precise language for scholarly and religious communication.How does Latin grammar differ from English?Latin is an inflected language with complex noun declensions and verb conjugations, whereas English relies more on word order and auxiliary words to convey meaning. Latin is probably the easiest of the older languages for speakers of English to learn, both because of their earlier relationship and because of the long use of Latin as the language of educational, ecclesiastical, legal and political affairs in western culture. Moreover, we use the Latin alphabet, so that the language is read without difficulty. On the other hand, the sentence structure and number of forms require a great deal of attention, since the words of sentences are placed for their emphasis, rather than in accordance with a pattern like that of the English Subject-Verb-Object sentence. It is essential, then, to learn the basic inflections of nouns and verbs. 1. The Latin alphabet and pronunciation. The Latin alphabet was taken over from the Greek through Etruscan. The order of the letters is therefore much the same as in Greek, as is also true of most of their pronunciation. The 23-letter alphabet is as follows: A B C D E F G H I K L M N O P Q R S T V X Y Z English has maintained this order with a few modifications. In Latin the letter I was used both for its vocalic value and to represent the sound y as in yet. An elongated form of the letter, J, was later introduced. But this is generally pronounced today as in jam, while the letter Y represents the consonantal value of I. Similarly, the Latin letter V was used to represent both the vocalic value of U as in hue, and the sound w as in wet. A rounded form, U, was introduced to represent the vowel, and a doubled form, W, was introduced to represent the consonantal value. It might also be noted that the third letter of the alphabet was pronounced with its value in cat, rather than with its value in cent or in our pronunciation of Caesar. The chief difference in pronunciation of these letters has to do with the vowels. The consonants are pronounced like their principal pronunciations in English. Whether long or short, the vowels are pronounced as in the languages of Europe. It might be noted, however, that when Latin was spoken in everyday use, it was pronounced in accordance with the pronunciation of the native language in the country, so that the pronunciation in Italy differed considerably from that in France or Germany, not to speak of England. But today it is pronounced as we assume it was in the Classical period of Latin, that is, at the beginning of our era. Its pronunciation is simple, if one remembers a few key words. Latin i and e are pronounced as in English clich; Latin a is pronounced as in father; Latin o is pronounced as in so, and u as in sue. When two vowels are found in the same syllable, each has its normal value; the first syllable of Caesar was then pronounced with the a as in father and the e as in clich, so that it was similar to our pronunciation of the pronoun I. Unlike English, Latin has few silent letters. A line of verse may then be read with every letter pronounced, such as the first line of Vergil's Aeneid: Arma virumque can, Triae qui primus ab ris'I sing of the arms and the man, who first [came] from the shores of Troy' Or the first line of Caesar's Gallic Wars: Gallia est omnis divisa in parts trs'Gaul as a whole is divided into three parts' 2. The vocabulary. English and Latin belong to the Indo-European language family; their earlier versions separated from each other over three thousand years ago. And until this century, much university instruction was carried on in Latin. Moreover, it was taught to many students from the high school years onward through college. University scholars often spoke to one another in Latin, as do members of the Vatican to this day. As a result, English shares many of the same words, especially in technical fields, although in modified form. Nonetheless it is useful to relate such words to their Latin counterparts. Some words have undergone little change so that their roots are close to those of their Latin equivalents, if spelled somewhat differently, for example English spew, Latin spuere, English stand, Latin stre. But most of the common words that the two languages share by inheritance are somewhat concealed, many of them because of a massive change of consonants in Germanic before the modern era. This change was described by the great German scholar Jakob Grimm and is known as Grimm's law, which is listed even in smaller dictionaries of English. At this time, p, t, k were changed to sounds that today are represented by f, th, h. Among examples are Latin pater vs. English father, Latin mater vs. English mother, and Latin cornu vs. English horn. And the sounds represented as bh, dh, gh in Indo-European were changed to the sounds that today are represented by b, d, g. These were also changed in Latin, where bh is represented by f, as in Latin frater vs. English brother; similarly, dh in Latin is also represented by f, as in Latin foris vs. English door; and gh is in Latin represented by h among other developments, as in Latin hanser, later anser vs. English goose. And d, g were changed to t, k (b was rare in Indo-European); compare Latin edere vs. English eat, Latin gelidus vs. English cold. It is interesting to compare such cognate words, but the changes that both languages have undergone often conceal the relationships, as for the numerals for four and five. Most of the others are transparently related, in spite of the changes: Latin nus, one; duo, two; trs, three; quattuor, four; quinque, five; sex, six; septem, seven; octo, eight; novem, nine; decem, ten. Since dictionaries often provide the Latin cognates of English entries, control over the Latin vocabulary can be gained by noting them. By far the greatest number of similar words are found in technical language, where English simply took over the Latin terms as industrial, political and technological affairs became more complex, especially in the last several centuries; ecclesiastical terms were taken over as England was christianized. The words were pronounced in accordance with the English spellings, rather than with their pronunciation in Latin. Some examples from these specialties are cited here. The industrial and technological spheres include such words as arbitrate, agent, auction, calculate, contract, junction, labor, premium, propeller, science, specimen. The political and legal sphere includes such terms as affidavit, alias, alibi, divorce, habeas corpus, injunction, subpoena. The ecclesiastical sphere includes such words as altar, confession, doctrine, infidel, repent, salvation, trinity. And other words belong to our every day vocabulary, such as animal, bonus, inertia, minimum, recipe, stimulus, vacuum. Thanks to the great number of such importations from Latin, it is relatively easy to learn its vocabulary. 3. The sentence structure of Latin. As is clear from the earlier quotations, the sentence order of Latin may differ considerably from that of English. In an earlier form of Latin, the verb was placed last in the sentence, as in the first clause of the Aeneid. But its position in the first line of Gallic Wars is quite different. The different positions are possible because of Latin inflections. In English we generally have to place together verbal phrases like 'is divided'; we can place some adverbs between them, as in 'is often divided', but we cannot ordinarily put numerals or adjectives after the nouns they modify, as is done in partes tres. English has strict rules of placement; Latin on the other hand can move elements around for stylistic purposes, so that instead of writing omnis Gallia, the order that Caesar used is quite acceptable, as is that of partes tres. In examining a Latin text, one should first identify the verb, whose forms are identifiable through their inflections. Similarly, the subject, if it is included in addition to the marker in the verb, should be identified. Clearly there is no such subject for can, so that one translates it with the subject ('I') indicated by its inflection. Verb forms ending in - have a first person subject, in contrast with the second person canis 'you sing', canit 'he/she sings'. It is useful, therefore, to memorize the basic inflections of verbs. Similarly, the subject can be identified by its form. Gallia, like many nouns, has feminine gender, and its nominative form ends in -a. As illustrated by these brief passages, the key to reading Latin is provided by knowledge of its inflections. While these are numerous, memorization of the basic inflections of nouns and verbs is generally adequate. 4. The forms of Latin. 4.1 Nouns, adjectives and pronouns. These three parts of speech are inflected for five cases, besides a case of address called the vocative. The cases are as follows: Nominative, the case of the subject; Genitive, the case indicating possession -- possessive, in grammars of English Dative, the case of the indirect object Accusative, the case of the direct object -- objective, in grammars of English Ablative, the case indicating separation Case forms may also be determined by prepositions. In English, only the nominative, genitive/possessive and accusative/objective have been maintained, and the last only in pronouns: I is nominative, my is genitive, me is accusative. Nouns simply have a nominative and a possessive, as in dog, dog's. Adjectives are not inflected. Latin nouns are also inflected based on -- number, that is, singular and plural. three genders: masculine, feminine, and neuter. five declensions. Paradigms are given in the various lessons. For illustration here, forms of nouns are shown in the first declension (most of which are feminine like via 'way'), and in the second declension (many of which are masculine such as numerus 'number'), and also the forms of the pronoun ego 'I': Sg. Pl. Sg. Pl. Sg. Pl. Nom. via viae numerus numer ego ns Gen. viae virum numer numerrum me nostrum Dat. viae vis numer numers mihi nbis Acc. viam vis numerum numers m nos Abl. vi vis numer numers m nbis The vocative in the first declension is the same as the nominative; in the second declension it ends in e, so that a slave, servus, would be called by saying serve. 4.2 Verbs. Like nouns, verbs have many inflections based on: active vs. passive voice; indicative vs. subjunctive mood; three tenses: present, past or imperfect, and future. Of these there are two sets: the simple present set and the perfect set. The perfect forms indicate a state or completion. The conjugations are given below. Here only a sketch is provided for understanding of the various forms and their relation to one another with first singular examples of the verb laud 'I praise.' Active voice Passive voice Indicative Subjunctive Indicative Subjunctive Present laud laudem laudor lauder Imperfect laudbam laudrem laudbar laudrer Future laudb laudbor Perfect laudv laudverim laudtus sum laudtus sim Past Perfect laudveram laudvissem laudtus eram laudtus essem Future Perfect laudvero laudtus ero In addition there are imperative forms, infinitives, participles, a gerund, and a supine. The imperative forms are rare in written texts, and are not illustrated here. The present infinitive active is laudre. The present participle active is laudans. The present infinitive passive is laudr. The perfect participle passive is laudtus. Because four forms provide sufficient information to produce the others for a verb, dictionaries and grammars list four principal parts. These are: the first person singular present active, e.g. laud; the first person singular perfect active, e.g. laudv; the perfect participle passive, e.g. laudtus; and the present infinitive active, e.g. laudre. It is especially important to note these for verbs of the third conjugation, because these are often irregular, e.g. ed 'I eat', d, sus, edere; faci 'I do', fc, factus, facere; scrib 'I write', scrips, scriptus, scribere. (Dictionaries and grammars may give the principal parts with the infinitive as second form; they may also give the neuter form of the perfect participle passive, e.g. factum.) 4.3 The other parts of speech. In addition to these four parts of speech, Latin includes adverbs, conjunctions, interjections, and prepositions. Since their functions are comparable to those of their English counterparts, they will not be discussed here. 5. Examples of texts. Proverbs or passages from literary figures are often cited, also in English works. A few will be given here to illustrate the use of forms and patterns of syntax. Caesar: Vn, vd, vc. 'I came, I saw, I conquered.' [three perfect forms] Fer libenter homines id quod volunt credunt. 'Nearly always people believe willingly that which they wish.' Cicero: Salus popul suprema est lex. 'The welfare of the people is the supreme law.' Silent enim legs inter arma. 'Laws indeed are silent in war.' Horace: Ira furor brevis est. 'Anger is brief madness.' Integer vitae, scelerisque purus. 'Blameless in life, and free of sins.' Dulce et decorum est pro patri mor. 'It is sweet and honorable to die for the fatherland.' Terence: Homo sum; human nil m alienum put. 'I am a man; I believe that nothing human is foreign to me.' Nullumst iam dictum quod non dictum sit prius. 'Nothing has yet been said that has not been said earlier.' Virgil: Equ n crdite, Teucr, Quidquid id est, time Danas et dona ferents. 'Do not trust in the horse, Trojans, Whatever it is, I fear the Greeks also [when they] are bringing gifts.' Hs successus alit; possunt, quia posse videntur. 'Success nourishes them; they can because they think they can.' Related Language Courses at UT Most but not all language courses taught at The University of Texas concern modern languages; however, numerous courses in Latin, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, are taught in the Department of Classics (link opens in a new browser window). Online language courses for college credit are offered through University Extension (new window). Italic Resources Elsewhere Our Links page includes pointers to Italic resources elsewhere. from Livy's History of Rome, Book 1, Section 1 from Livy's History of Rome, Book 2, Section 10 from Caesar's Gallic War, Book 6, Section 13 from Caesar's Gallic War, Book 6, Sections 15-20 from Caesar's Gallic War, Book 6, Sections 21-22 from Tacitus' Germania, Section 16 from Ennius' Annals, Sections 80-100 from Augustine's Confessions, Book 1, Section 8 from Einhard's On Charlemagne from Virgil's Aeneid, Section 1ff. first lesson | next lesson Learn Latin online for free with grammar tutorials, vocabulary lessons, practice exercises and more. This curated list of Latin learning resources was last updated in August 2025. Audio & Video Other Resources The most widely recommended Latin textbook for beginners is Wheelock's Latin by Frederic Wheelock and Richard LaFleur. Best of all, it is only about $20 on Amazon.com! It contains: "40 chapters with grammatical explanations and readings; Self-tutorial exercises, each with an answer key, for independent study; An extensive EnglishLatin/LatinEnglish vocabulary section; A rich selection of original Latin readings" Indo-European language of the Italic branchFor other uses, see Latin (disambiguation).Not to be confused with Ladin.Latinlingua Latina, Latinum[I]Latin inscription on a stone inside the Colosseum in Rome, ItalyPronunciationLatin pronunciation: [[atin]]NativetoLatiumAncient RomeEthnicityLatinsRomansEraAs a native language, c.7th centuryBC c.8th centuryADLanguage familyIndo-EuropeanItalicLatino-FaliscanLatinEarly formOld LatinWriting systemLatin (Latin alphabet)Official statusRegulatedbyPontifical Academy for LatinLanguage codesISO 639-1laISO 639-2latISO 639-3latGlottologimpe1234lati1261Linguasphere-ab, -ac 51-AAB-aa, -ab, -acGreatest extent of the Roman Empire under Emperor Trajan (c.117AD) and the area governed by Latin speakers. Many languages other than Latin were spoken within the empire.This article contains IPA phonetic symbols. Without proper rendering support, you may see question marks, boxes, or other symbols instead of Unicode characters. For an introductory guide on IPA symbols, see Help:IPA.Latin (lingua Latina or Latinum[I]) is a classical language belonging to the Italic branch of the Indo-European languages. Latin was originally spoken by the Latins in Latium (now known as Lazio), the lower Tiber area around Rome, Italy.[1] Through the expansion of the Roman Republic, it became the dominant language in the Italian Peninsula and subsequently throughout the Roman Empire. It has greatly influenced many languages, including English, having contributed many words to the English lexicon, particularly after the Christianisation of the Anglo-Saxons and the Norman Conquest. Latin roots appear frequently in the technical vocabulary used by fields such as theology, the sciences, medicine, and law.By the late Roman Republic, Old Latin had evolved into standardised Classical Latin. Vulgar Latin refers to the less prestigious colloquial registers, attested in inscriptions and some literary works such as those of the comic playwrights Plautus and Terence[2] and the author Petronius. While often called a "dead language",[3] Latin did not undergo language death. Between the 6th and 9th centuries, natural language change in the vernacular Latin of different regions evolved into distinct Romance languages. After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, Latin remained the common language of international communication, science, scholarship and academia in Europe into the early 19th century, by which time modern languages had supplanted it in common academic and political usage.Late Latin is the literary form of the language from the 3rd century AD onward. No longer spoken as a native language, Medieval Latin was used across Western and Catholic Europe during the Middle Ages as a working and literary language from the 9th century to the Renaissance, which then developed a classicising form, called Renaissance Latin. This was the basis for Neo-Latin, which evolved during the early modern period. Latin was taught to be written and spoken at least until the late seventeenth century, when spoken skills began to erode; Contemporary Latin is generally studied to be read rather than spoken. Ecclesiastical Latin remains the official language of the Holy See and the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church.Latin grammar is highly fusional, with classes of inflections for case, number, person, gender, tense, mood, voice, and aspect. The Latin alphabet is directly derived from the Etruscan and Greek alphabets.Main article: History of LatinThe linguistic landscape of central Italy at the beginning of Roman expansionA number of phases of the language have been recognised, each distinguished by subtle differences in vocabulary, usage, spelling, and syntax. There are no hard and fast rules of classification; different scholars emphasise different features. As a result, the list has variants, as well as alternative names.In addition to the historical phases, Ecclesiastical Latin refers to the styles used by the writers of the Roman Catholic Church from late antiquity onward, as well as by Protestant scholars.Main article: Old LatinThe Lapis Niger, probably the oldest extant Latin inscription, from Rome, c.600 BC during the semi-legendary Roman KingdomThe earliest known form of Latin is Old Latin, also called Archaic or Early Latin, which was spoken from the Roman Kingdom, traditionally founded in 753 BC, through the later part of the Roman Republic, up to 75 BC, i.e. before the age of Classical Latin.[4] It is attested both in inscriptions and in some of the earliest extant Latin literary works, such as the comedies of Plautus and Terence. The Latin alphabet was devised from the Etruscan alphabet. The writing later changed from what was initially either a right-to-left or a boustrophedon[5][6] script to what ultimately became a strictly left-to-right script.[7]Main article: Classical LatinDuring the late republic and into the first years of the empire, from about 75 BC to AD 200, a new Classical Latin arose, a conscious creation of the orators, poets, historians and other literate men, who wrote the great works of classical literature, which were taught in grammar and rhetoric schools. Today's instructional grammars trace their roots to such schools, which served as a sort of informal language academy dedicated to maintaining and perpetuating educated speech.[8][9]Main article: Vulgar LatinPhilological analysis of Archaic Latin works, such as those of Plautus, which contain fragments of everyday speech, gives evidence of an informal register of the language, Vulgar Latin (termed sermo vulgi 'the speech of the masses', by Cicero). Some linguists, particularly in the nineteenth century, believed this to be a separate language, existing more or less in parallel with the literary or educated Latin, but this is now widely dismissed.[10]The term 'Vulgar Latin' remains difficult to define, referring both to informal speech at any time within the history of Latin, and the kind of informal Latin that had begun to move away from the written language significantly in the post-Imperial period, that led ultimately to the Romance languages.During the Classical period, informal language was rarely written, so philologists have been left with only individual words and phrases cited by classical authors, inscriptions such as Curse tablets and those found as graffiti. In the Late Latin period, language changes reflecting spoken (non-classical) norms tend to be found in greater quantities in texts.[11]As it was free to develop on its own

ng in sing (/s/)l[l]When doubled ll and before i, as "light L", [l] in link ([lnk]) (l exilis)[69][70][]In all other positions, as "dark L", [] in bowl ([bo]) (l pinguis)qu[k]Similar to qu in squint (/skwnt/)u[w]Sometimes at the beginning of a syllable, or after g and s, as /w/ in wine (/wan/)i[j]Sometimes at the beginning of a syllable, as y (/j/) in yard (/jd/)[ij]"y" (/j/), in between vowels, becomes "i-y", being pronounced as parts of two separate syllables, as in capi (/kapijo:/)x[ks]A letter representing c + s: as x in English axe (/ks/)In Classical Latin, as in modern Italian, double consonant letters were pronounced as long consonant sounds distinct from short versions of the same consonants. Thus the nn in Classical Latin annus 'year' (and in Italian anno) is pronounced as a doubled /nn/ as in English unnamed. (In English, distinctive consonant length or doubling occurs only at the boundary between two words or morphemes, as in that example.)Simple vowels[71][72]FrontCentralBackClosei iu uMid Opena aIn Classical Latin, U did not exist as a letter distinct from V; the written form V was used to represent both a vowel and a consonant. Y was adopted to represent upsilon in loanwords from Greek, but it was pronounced like u and i by some speakers. It was also used in native Latin words by confusion with Greek words of similar meaning, such as sylva and hl.Classical Latin distinguished between long and short vowels. Then, long vowels, except for i, were frequently marked using the apex, which was sometimes similar to an acute accent V . Long /i/ was written using a taller version of I, called i longa 'long I': . In modern texts, long vowels are often indicated by a macron , and short vowels are usually unmarked except when it is necessary to distinguish between words, when they are marked with a breve . However, they would also signify a long vowel by writing the vowel larger than other letters in a word or by repeating the vowel twice in a row.[68] The acute accent, when it is used in modern Latin texts, indicates stress, as in Spanish, rather than length.Although called long vowels, their exact quality in Classical Latin is different from short vowels. The difference is described in the table below:Pronunciation of Latin vowelsGraphemePhoneModern examplesa[a]Similar to the a in part (/pat/)[a]Similar to the a in father (/f/)e[]As e in pet (/pt/)[] but longeri[i]i but shorter[i]Similar to i in machine (/min/)o[]As o in port (/pt/)[] but longeru[u]u but shorter[u]Similar to ue in true (/tu/)y[]Does not exist in English, closest approximation is the u in mule[] but longer.This difference in quality is posited by W. Sidney Allen in his book Vox Latina. However, Andrea Calabrese has disputed this assertion, based in part upon the observation that in Sardinian and some Lucanian dialects, each long and short vowel pair merged, as opposed to in Italo-Western languages in which short /i/ and /u/ merged with long /e/ and /o:/ (cf. Latin siccus, Italian secco, and Sardinian siccu).[73]A vowel letter followed by m at the end of a word, or a vowel letter followed by n before s or f, represented a short nasal vowel, as in monstrum [mstr].Classical Latin had several diphthongs. The two most common were ae au. The former is pronounced like the i in mine, and the latter like the ow in power. oe was fairly rare, and ui eu ei were very rare, at least in native Latin words.[74] There has also been debate over whether ui is truly a diphthong in Classical Latin, due to its rarity, absence in works of Roman grammarians, and the roots of Classical Latin words (e.g. hui ce to huic, quoi to cui) not matching or being similar to the pronunciation of classical words if ui were to be considered a diphthong.[75]The sequences sometimes did not represent diphthongs. ae and oe also represented a sequence of two vowels in different syllables in anus [ae.ns] 'bronze' and copit [ke.pt] 'began', and au ui eu ei ou represented sequences of two vowels or of a vowel and one of the semivowels /j w/, in cav [ka.we] 'beware!', cuius [kj.js] 'whose', monu [mn..i] 'I warned', solv [s.wi] 'I released', dlv [dele.wi] 'I destroyed', eius [j.js] 'his', and novus [n.ws] 'new'.Old Latin had more diphthongs, but most of them changed into long vowels in Classical Latin. The Old Latin diphthong ai and the sequence became Classical ae. Old Latin oi and ou changed to Classical , except in a few words whose oi became Classical oe. These two developments sometimes occurred in different words from the same root: for instance, Classical poena "punishment" and pnre "to punish".[74] Early Old Latin ei usually monophthongised to a later Old Latin , to Classical .[76]By the late Roman Empire, ae oe had merged with e . During the Classical period this sound change was present in some rural dialects, but deliberately avoided by well-educated speakers.[74]Diphthongs classified by beginning soundFrontBackCloseui /ui/Midei /ei/eu /eu/oe /oe/ou /ou/Openae /ae/au /au/Syllables in Latin are signified by the presence of diphthongs and vowels. The number of syllables is the same as the number of vowel sounds.[68]Further, if a consonant separates two vowels, it will go into the syllable of the second vowel. When there are two consonants between vowels, the last consonant will go with the second vowel. An exception occurs when a phonetic stop and liquid come together. In this situation, they are thought to be a single consonant, and as such, they will go into the syllable of the second vowel.[68]Syllables in Latin are considered either long or short (less often called "heavy" and "light" respectively). Within a word, a syllable may either be long by nature or long by position.[68] A syllable is long by nature if it has a diphthong or a long vowel. On the other hand, a syllable is long by position if the vowel is followed by more than one consonant.[68]There are two rules that define which syllable is stressed in Classical Latin.[68]In a word with only two syllables, the emphasis will be on the first syllable.In a word with more than two syllables, there are two cases.If the second-to-last syllable is long, that syllable will have stress.If the second-to-last syllable is not long, the syllable before that one will be stressed instead.[68]Main articles: Latin alphabet and Latin phonology and orthographyThe Duenos Inscription, from the 6th centuryBC, is one of the earliest known Old Latin texts. It was found on the Quirinal Hill in Rome.Latin was written in the Latin alphabet (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, V, X), derived from the Etruscan alphabet, which was in turn drawn from the Greek alphabet and ultimately the Phoenician alphabet.[77] This alphabet has continued to be used over the centuries as the script for the Romance, Celtic, Germanic, Baltic, Finnic and many Slavic languages (Polish, Slovak, Slovene, Croatian, Bosnian, Serbian and Czech); and it has been adopted by many languages around the world, including Vietnamese, the Austronesian languages, many Turkic languages, and most languages in sub-Saharan Africa, the Americas and Oceania, making it by far the world's single most widely used writing system.The number of letters in the Latin alphabet has varied. When it was first derived from the Etruscan alphabet, it contained only 21 letters.[78] Later, G was added to represent //, which had previously been spelled C, and Z ceased to be included in the alphabet, as the language then had no voiced alveolar fricative.[79] The letters K, Y, and Z were later added to represent Greek letters kappa, upsilon, and zeta respectively, in Greek loanwords.[79]W was created in the 11th century from VV in some areas and UU in others. It represented /w/ in Germanic languages, not Latin, which still uses V for the purpose. J was distinguished from the original I only during the late Middle Ages, as was the letter U from V.[79] Although some Latin dictionaries use J, it is rarely used for Latin text, as it was not used in classical times, but many other languages use it.Classical Latin did not contain sentence punctuation, letter case, [80] or interword spacing, but apices were sometimes used to distinguish length in vowels and the interpunct was used at times to separate words.The first line of Catullus 3 ("Mourn, O Venuses and Cupids") was originally written as:simplylvgtevenerscupidinsqvewith long llvgtevenerscupIdinsqvewith interpunctlvgtevenerscupidinsqveIt would be rendered in a modern edition as:simplyLugete, o Veneres Cupidinesquewith macronsLgte, Veners Cupdinsquewith apicesLgte, Veners CupdinsqueA modern Latin text written in the Old Roman Cursive inspired by the Vindolanda tablets, the oldest surviving handwritten documents in Britain. The word Romani 'Romans' is at bottom left.The Roman cursive script is commonly found on the many wax tablets excavated at sites such as forts, an especially extensive set having been discovered at Vindolanda on Hadrian's Wall in Britain. Most notable is the fact that while most of the Vindolanda tablets show spaces between words, spaces were avoided in monumental inscriptions from that era.Occasionally, Latin has been written in other scripts:The Praeneste fibula is a 7th-centuryBC pin with an Old Latin inscription written using the Etruscan script.The rear panel of the early 8th-century Franks Casket has an inscription that switches from Old English in Anglo-Saxon runes to Latin in Latin script and to Latin in runes.Main articles: Latin grammar and Latin syntaxSyntactical structure of the Latin sentence Iohannes vidit illam puellam, meaning 'John sees the girl'Latin is a synthetic, fusional language in the terminology of linguistic typology. Words involve an objective semantic element and markers (usually suffixes) specifying the grammatical use of the word, expressing gender, number, and case in adjectives, nouns, and pronouns (declension) and verbs to denote person, number, tense, voice, mood, and aspect (conjugation). Some words are uninflected and undergo neither process, such as adverbs, prepositions, and interjections.Latin inflection can result in words with much ambiguity: For example, ambit 'he/she/it will love', is formed from am-, a future tense morpheme -bi- and a third person singular morpheme, -t, the last of which -t does not express masculine, feminine, or neuter gender. A major task in understanding Latin phrases and clauses is to clarify such ambiguities by an analysis of context. Latin word order is relatively free because inflections disambiguate semantic connections, but different word orders can indicate different nuances of meaning.Main article: Latin declensionA regular Latin noun belongs to one of five main declensions, a group of nouns with similar inflected forms. The declensions are identified by the genitive singular form of the noun.The first declension, with a predominant ending letter of a, is signified by the genitive singular ending of -ae.The second declension, with a predominant ending letter of us, is signified by the genitive singular ending of -.The third declension, with a predominant ending letter of i, is signified by the genitive singular ending of -is.The fourth declension, with a predominant ending letter of u, is signified by the genitive singular ending of -s.The fifth declension, with a predominant ending letter of e, is signified by the genitive singular ending of -e.There are seven Latin noun cases, which also apply to adjectives and pronouns and mark a noun's syntactic role in the sentence by means of inflections. Thus, word order in Latin is not as important as it is in English, which is less inflected. The general structure and word order of a Latin sentence can therefore vary. The cases are as follows:Nominative used when the noun is the subject or a predicate nominative. The thing or person acting: the girl ran: puella cucurrit, or cucurrit puellaGenitive used when the noun is the possessor of or connected with an object: "the horse of the man", or "the man's horse"; in both instances, the word man would be in the genitive case when it is translated into Latin. It also indicates the partitive, in which the material is quantified: "a group of people"; "a number of gifts": people and gifts would be in the genitive case. Some nouns are genitive with special verbs and adjectives: The cup is full of wine. (Pculum plnum vn est.) The master of the slave had beaten him. (Dominus serv eum verberverat.)Dative used when the noun is the indirect object of the sentence, with special verbs, with certain prepositions, and if it is used as agent, reference, or even possessor: The merchant hands the stola to the woman. (Merctor fminae stolam trdit.)Accusative used when the noun is the direct object of the subject, as the object of a preposition demonstrating place to which, and sometimes to indicate a duration of time: The man killed the boy. (Vir puerum necvit.)Ablative used when the noun demonstrates separation or movement from a source, cause, agent or instrument or when the noun is used as the object of certain prepositions, and to indicate a specific place in time.; adverbial: You walked with the boy. (Cum puer ambulvist.)Vocative used when the noun is used in a direct address. The vocative form of a noun is often the same as the nominative, with the exception of second-declension nouns ending in -us. The -us becomes an -e in the vocative singular. If it ends in -ius (such as flius), the ending is just - (fil), as distinct from the nominative plural (fili) in the vocative singular: "Master!" shouted the slave. ("Domine!" clmvit servus.)Locative used to indicate a location (corresponding to the English in or at. It is far less common than the other six cases of Latin nouns and usually applies to cities and small towns and islands along with a few common nouns, such as the words domus 'house', humus 'ground', and rus 'country'. In the singular of the first and second declensions, its form coincides with the genitive (Roma becomes Romae 'in Rome'. In the plural of all declensions and the singular of the other declensions, it coincides with the ablative (Athnae becomes Athns, 'at Athens'. In the fourth-declension word domus, the locative form, dom 'at home' differs from the standard form of all other cases.Latin lacks both definite and indefinite articles so puer currit can mean either 'the boy is running' or 'a boy is running'.Main article: Latin declension AdjectivesThere are two types of regular Latin adjectives: first- and second-declension and third-declension. They are so-called because their forms are similar or identical to first- and second-declension and third-declension nouns, respectively. Latin adjectives also have comparative and superlative forms. There are also a number of Latin participles.Latin numbers are sometimes declined as adjectives; see Numbers.First- and second-declension adjectives are declined like first-declension nouns for the feminine forms and like second-declension nouns for the masculine and neuter forms. For example, for mortuus, mortua, mortuum 'dead', mortua is declined like a regular first-declension noun (such as puella 'girl', mortuus is declined like a regular second-declension masculine noun (such as dominus 'lord, master', and mortuum is declined like a regular second-declension neuter noun (such as auxilium 'help'.Third-declension adjectives are mostly declined like normal third-declension nouns, with a few exceptions. In the plural nominative neuter, for example, the ending is -ia (omnia 'all, everything', and for third-declension nouns, the plural nominative neuter ending is -a or -ia (capita 'heads', animalia 'animals'. They can have one, two or three forms for the masculine, feminine, and neuter nominative singular.Latin participles, like English participles, are formed from a verb. There are a few main types of participles: Present Active Participles, Perfect Passive Participles, Future Active Participles, and Future Passive Participles.Latin sometimes uses prepositions, depending on the type of prepositional phrase being used. Most prepositions are followed by a noun in either the accusative or ablative case: apud puerum 'with the boy', with puerum being the accusative form of puer 'boy', and sine puero 'without the boy' puero being the ablative form. A few adpositions, however, govern a noun in the genitive, such as gratia and tenus.Main articles: Latin grammar and Latin conjugationA regular verb in Latin belongs to one of four main conjugations. A conjugation is "a class of verbs with similar inflected forms".[81] The conjugations are identified by the last letter of the verb's present stem. The present stem can be found by omitting the -re (-r in deponent verbs) ending from the present infinitive form. The infinitive of the first conjugation ends in --re or --ri (active and passive respectively): amre 'to love', hortr 'to exhort'; of the second conjugation by --re or --r: monre 'to warn', verr 'to fear', of the third conjugation by -ere, -: dcere 'to lead', t 'to use'; of the fourth by --re, --r: audre 'to hear', experr 'to attempt'.[82] The stem categories descend from Indo-European and can therefore be compared to similar conjugations in other Indo-European languages.Irregular verbs are verbs that do not follow the regular conjugations in the formation of the inflected form. Irregular verbs in Latin are esse 'to be'; velle 'to want'; ferre 'to carry'; edere 'to eat'; dare 'to give 'ire 'to go'; posse 'to be able'; fieri 'to happen'; and their compounds.[82]There are six simple tenses in Latin (present, imperfect, future, perfect, pluperfect and future perfect), three moods (indicative, imperative and subjunctive, in addition to the infinitive, participle, gerund, gerundive and supine), three persons (first, second and third), two numbers (singular and plural), two voices (active and passive) and two aspects (perfective and imperfective). Verbs are described by four principal parts:The first principal part is the first-person singular, present tense, active voice, indicative mood form of the verb. If the verb is impersonal, the first principal part will be in the third-person singular.The second principal part is the present active infinitive.The third principal part is the first-person singular, perfect active indicative form. Like the first principal part, if the verb is impersonal, the third principal part will be in the third-person singular.The fourth principal part is the supine form, or alternatively, the nominative singular of the perfect passive participle form of the verb. The fourth principal part can show one gender of the participle or all three genders (-us for masculine, -a for feminine and -um for neuter) in the nominative singular. The fourth principal part will be the future participle if the verb cannot be made passive. Most modern Latin dictionaries, if they show only one gender, tend to show the masculine; but many older dictionaries instead show the neuter, as it coincides with the supine. The fourth principal part is sometimes omitted for intransitive verbs, but strictly in Latin, they can be made passive if they are used impersonally, and the supine exists for such verbs.The six simple tenses of Latin are divided into two systems: the present system, which is made up of the present, imperfect and future forms, and the perfect system, which is made up of the perfect, pluperfect and future perfect forms. Each simple tense has a set of endings corresponding to the person, number, and voice of the subject. Subject (nominative) pronouns are generally omitted for the first (I, we) and second (you) persons except for emphasis.The table below displays the common inflected endings for the indicative mood in the active voice in all six tenses. For the future tense, the first listed endings are for the first and second conjugations, and the second listed endings are for the third and fourth conjugations:TenseSingularPlural1st Person2nd Person3rd Person1st Person2nd Person3rd PersonPresent-/m-s-t-mus-tis-ntFuture-b, -am-bis, -s-bit, -et-bimus, -mus-bitis, -tis-bunt, -entImperfect-bam-bs-bat-bmus-btis-bantPerfect--ist-it-imus-istis-runtFuture Perfect-er-eris/ers-erit-erimus/-ermus-eritis/-ertis-erintPluperfect-eram-ers-erat-ermus-ertis-erantSome Latin verbs are deponent, causing their forms to be in the passive voice but retain an active meaning: hortor, hortr, horttus sum 'to urge'.As Latin is an Italic language, most of its vocabulary is likewise Italic, ultimately from the ancestral Proto-Indo-European language. However, because of close cultural interaction, the Romans not only adapted the Etruscan alphabet to form the Latin alphabet but also borrowed some Etruscan words into their language, including persona 'mask' and histrio 'actor'.[83] Latin also included vocabulary borrowed from Oscan, another Italic language.After the Fall of Tarentum in 272BC, the Romans began Hellenising, or adopting features of Greek culture, including the borrowing of Greek words, such as camera 'vaulted roof', sumbolum 'symbol', and balineum 'bath'.[83] This Hellenisation led to the addition of Y and Z to the alphabet to represent Greek sounds.[84] Subsequently, the Romans transplanted Greek art, medicine, science and philosophy to Italy, paying almost any price to entice Greek skilled and educated persons to Rome and sending their youth to be educated in Greece. Thus, many Latin scientific and philosophical words were Greek loanwords or had their meanings expanded by association with Greek words, as ars 'craft' and tekhne 'art'.[85]Because of the Roman Empire's expansion and subsequent trade with outlying European tribes, the Romans borrowed some northern and central European words, such as beber 'beaver', of Germanic origin, and bracae 'breeches', of Celtic origin.[85] The specific dialects of Latin across Latin-speaking regions of the former Roman Empire after its fall were influenced by languages specific to the regions. The dialects of Latin evolved into different Romance languages.During and after the adoption of Christianity into Roman society, Christian vocabulary became a part of the language, either from Greek or Hebrew borrowings or as Latin neologisms.[86] Into the Middle Ages, Latin incorporated many more words from surrounding languages, including Old English and other Germanic languages.Over the ages, Latin-speaking populations produced new adjectives, nouns, and verbs by affixing or compounding meaningful segments.[87] For example, the compound adjective, omnipotens 'all-powerful', was produced from the adjectives omnis 'all', and potens 'powerful', by dropping the final s of omnis and concatenating. Often, the concatenation changed the part of speech, and nouns were produced from verb segments or verbs from nouns and adjectives.[88]This section does not cite any sources. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. (May 2020) (Learn how and when to remove this message)Further information: Latin numerals (linguistics)In ancient times, numbers in Latin were written only with letters. Today, the numbers can be written with the Arabic numbers as well as with Roman numerals. The numbers 1, 2 and 3 and every whole hundred from 200 to 900 are declined as nouns and adjectives, with some differences.nus, na, num (masculine, feminine, neuter)Ioneduo, duae, duo (m., f., n.)IItwotrs, tria (m./f., n.)IIIthreequattuorIIII or IVfourqunqueVfivesexVIsixseptemVIIsevenoctIIX or VIIIeightnovemVIIII or IXninedecemXtenqunqugintLfiftycentumCone hundredqungent, qungentae, qungenta (m., f., n.)Dfive hundredmlleMone thousandThe numbers from 4 to 100 do not change their endings. As in modern descendants such as Spanish, the gender for naming a number in isolation is masculine, so that "1, 2, 3" is counted as nus, duo, trs.Commentarii de Bello Gallico, also called De Bello Gallico (The Gallic War), written by Gaius Julius Caesar, begins with the following passage:Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres, quarum unam incolunt Belgae, aliam Aquitani, tertiam qui ipsorum lingua Celtae, nostra Galli appellantur. Hi omnes lingua, institutis, legibus inter se differunt. Gallos ab Aquitanis Garumna flumen, a Belgis Matrona et Sequana dividit. Horum omnium fortissimi sunt Belgae, propterea quod a cultu atque humanitate provinciae longissime absunt, minimeque ad eos mercatores saepe commeant atque ea quae ad effeminandos animos pertinent important, proximique sunt Germanis, qui trans Rhenum incolunt, quibuscum continenter bellum gerunt. Qua de causa Helvetii quoque reliquos Gallos virtute praecedunt, quod fere cotidianis proeliis cum Germanis contendunt, cum aut suis finibus eos prohibent aut ipsi in eorum finibus bellum gerunt. Eorum una pars, quam Gallos obtinere dictum est, initium capit a flumine Rhodano, continetur Garumna flumine, Oceano, finibus Belgarum; attingit etiam ab Sequanis et Helvetiis flumen Rhenum; vergit ad septentriones. Belgae ab extremis Galliae finibus oriuntur; pertinent ad inferiorem partem fluminis Rheni; spectant in septentrionem et orientem solem. Aquitania a Garumna flumine ad Pyrenaeos montes et eam partem Oceani quae est ad Hispaniam pertinet; spectat inter occasum solis et septentriones.The same text may be marked for all long vowels (before any possible elisions at word boundary) with apices over vowel letters, including customarily before nf and ns where a long vowel is automatically produced:Gallia est omnis dvsa in parts trs, qurum nam incolunt Belgae, aliam Aqutn, tertiam qu ipsrum lingu Celtae, nostr Gall appellantur. H omns lingu, nstitts, lgibus inter s differunt. Galls ab Aqutns Garumna flmen, Belgs Mtrona et Squana dvidit. Hrum omnium fortissim sunt Belgae, propterе quod cult atque hmnitte prvinciae longissim absunt, minimque ad es merctrs saepe commeant atque ea quae ad effminands anims pertinent important, proximque sunt Germns, qu trns Rhnum incolunt, quibuscum continenter bellum gerunt. Qu d caus Helvti quoque reliqus Galls virtte praecdunt, quod fer cotdins proelis cum Germns contendunt, cum aut sus fnibus es prohibent aut ips in erum fnibus bellum gerunt. Erum na pars, quam Galls obtinre dictum est, initium capit flmine Rhodan, contintur Garumn flmine, cean, fnibus Belgrum; attingit etiam ab Squans et Helvtis flmen Rhnum; vergit ad septentrins. Belgae ab extrms Galliae fnibus oriuntur; pertinent ad nferirem partem flminis Rhn; spectant in septentrinem et orientem slem. Aqutnia Garumn flmine ad Prnaes monts et eam partem cean quae est ad Hispniam pertinet; spectat inter occsum slis et septentrins.An example of Late Latin is the Latin Vulgate by Saint Jerome. Below is Psalm One (Psalmum Unum) from the Clementine Vulgate.1 Beatus vir qui non abiit in consilio impiorum, et in via peccatorum non stetit, et in cathedra pestilentiae non sedit; 2 sed in lege Domini voluntas ejus, et in lege ejus meditabitur die ac nocte. 3 Et erit tamquam lignum quod plantatum est secus decursus aquarum, quod fructum suum dabit in tempore suo: et folium ejus non defluet; et omnia quaecumque faciet prosperabuntur. 4 Non sic impii, non sic; sed tamquam pulvis quem projicit ventus a facie terrae. 5 Ideo non resurgent impii in judicio, neque peccatores in concilio justorum,^ a b Latin pronunciation: [[la atina]], [[atin]]Portals: Ancient Rome Language CatholicismAccademia Vivarium NovumBotanical LatinClassical compoundHybrid wordInternational Roman Law Moot CourtLatin mnemonicsLatin obscenityLatin schoolList of Latin abbreviationsList of Latin and Greek words commonly used in systematic namesList of Latin phrasesList of Latin translations of modern literatureList of Latinised namesRomanization (cultural)Traditional English pronunciation of Latin^ Sandys, John Edwin (1910). 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