

Glossary of Everyday English Words derived from Latin (with Proverbs)

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Introduction

Many English words share Latin roots. In fact, it has been said that 60% of the words in the English language are derived directly from Latin words. Dictionary.com puts it this way: "About 80 percent of the entries in any English dictionary are borrowed, mainly from Latin. Over 60 percent of all English words have Greek or Latin roots. In the vocabulary of the sciences and technology, the figure rises to over 90 percent. About 10 percent of the Latin vocabulary has found its way directly into English without an intermediary (usually French). For a time, the whole Latin lexicon became potentially English and many words were coined on the basis of Latin precedent. Words of Greek origin have generally entered English in one of three ways: 1) indirectly by way of Latin, 2) borrowed directly from Greek writers, or 3) especially in the case of scientific terms, formed in modern times by combining Greek elements in new ways. The direct influence of the classical languages began with the Renaissance and has continued ever since. Even today, Latin and Greek roots are the chief source for English words in science and technology."

This publication is limited to everyday English words that are derived from Latin. Please let us know of any words that are often used but which we may have missed out.

Latin words, their meaning and usage examples

LATIN WORD	MEANING	USAGE EXAMPLES
absum	be absent	absent
accipere	accept	accept, acceptable
acer, acris, acre	sharp	acrid, acridity, acrimony
acervus	heap	acervate
adornatus	decorated	adorn, adornment
adulationis	extravagant praise	adulation
aedificum	edifice	edifice
ager	field	agrarian
agmen	marching army	agminate
agricola	farmer	agriculture
ala	wing	alate, alated, alary
alba	white	albino, albinism albumen
alta	tall, high, deep	altitude, altimeter, alto
alter(nis)	other	alter, alternate, alter ego
aliud	available as a different option	alternative
ama	love	amatory, amour
amare	to love	amiable, amiably, amity
ambulare	to walk	amble, somnabulent, ambulatory
amica	friendly	amicable, amicability, amity
animal	animal	animal
annus	year	annual, annually, annuity
ataxia	inability to coordinate bodily movements, especially of the muscles	ataxy
ante	before	antecommunion, penny ante, antecedent, antebellum
antiqua	antique, old	antique, antiquity, ancient
aperire	to open	aperture, aperient
apertus	open	aperture, apertive, aperient
apparere	to appear	appear, appearance, disappear
appellare	to name	appeal, apellate, appellation

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LATIN WORD	MEANING	USAGE EXAMPLES
appositus	apposite	appropriate
aqua	water	aquatics, aquarium, aqueduct, aqueous
aquila	eagle	aquiline
aquila	eagle	aquiline
arare	to plow	arable
arbor, arboris	tree	arbor, arboraceous, arboreal, arboretum
ardere, arsi	to burn	arson, ardent, ardency
arma	arms (weapons)	arms, armed, armament, army
ater	black	atrabiliar, atrabilious
audacia	boldness	audacity, audacious
audit	hear, listen to	audition, auditorium, auditory
augere	to increase	augment, augmentative, augmentation
aureus	golden	aurorial, aureorean, aurous
aurum	gold	aureate, aureomycin, auric
auxilium	help	auxiliary
avide	avidly	avid, avidly, avidity
avis	bird	aviary, avian, aviation
avunculus	uncle	avuncular
baca	berry	baccalaureate, baccate baccivirus
barbarus	uncivilised	barbarian, barbarous
beata	happy	beatific, beatify, beatitude
bellum	war	belligerent, belligerency, bellicose
bene	well	benefit, beneficial, beneficiary
bestia	beast	bestial, bestiality
bibare	to drink	bib, bibulous, imbibe
bona	good	bonus, bonanza, bona fide
buxis	box, container with a lid	box
bracchium	(relating to the) arm	brachial, brachium
brevis	short, brief	brevity, breviary, brevirostrate
cadere, cecidi	to fall	decay, deciduous, occasion, cascade, cadaverous
caducus, cadere	tending to fall, frailty; transitoriness	accident, coincide, cadaver and chance
caelum	sky	celestial
campus	field	campus, camp, campo
candida	frank, open, sincere, honest	candid, candidate, candidacy
canis	canine	canine, Cani Major, canine tooth
cantare	to sing	canticle, cantible, canto, incantation
canus	dog	canine
capillus, pilus	hair-like	capillaceous, piliform, capillary
caput, capitis	head	decapitate
casa	small house	casino
castra	camp	castramentation
cauda	tail	caudate, caudal, caudated
cedere	to yield	cede, cease

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LATIN WORD	MEANING	USAGE EXAMPLES
celare	to hide	conceal
celeriter	accelerate	accelerate, accelerator, celerity
certe	surely	certain, certainly, certify
cervus	stag	cervine
circum	around	circumstance, circumnavigate, circumspect, circumcise
circumspectare	to look around	circumspect, circumspection
civis	citizen	civilian, civil, civic
clamare	to shout	clamor, exclaim, clamant
claudere	close	clause, clausal, claustrophobia
clava	club	clavicorn, clavate, claviform
clericalem	of clergy or of clerks	cleric, clerical
cogentes	appealing to the intellect or powers of reasoning; convincing	cogent, cogency, cogently
colloquium	conversation	colloquial, colloquialism, colloquy
columba	dove	columbarium, columbary, columbine
coma	hair	coma, comate
committere	entrust	commit, commission, commissioner, committee
compulsorius	obligatory, mandatory	compulsory
concurrere	to run together	concur, concurrent, concurrence
condicio, -onis	condition	condition, conditional
confligere	to strike together	conflict, confliction, conflictor
conflationem	merging into one	conflation
consilium	plan	counsel, counsellor
conspicere	to look at	conspicuous, inconspicuous
constitutare	to decide	constitute, constitution, constitutional
construere	to interpret/construe	construe, construct (as in construction of a sentence)
contendere	contend	contend, contender, contention
copia	plenty	copious, cornucopia, copiously
coruscare	(of light) flash or sparkle	coruscate, coruscation
cornu	horn	cornucopia, cornet, clavicorn
corona	crown	coronal, corona, coronary
corpus	body	corpse, corporeal, corporation, incorporate
crista	crest	cristate, crest, cristates
crudelis	cruel	crude, crudity, cruel
cupius	eager	cupidity
cura	care	manicure, pedicure, cure
currere	to run	current, occurring, occurrence
custodire	guard, watch	custodian, custodial, custody
custos, custodis	watchman	custodian, custodial, custody
decedere	to depart	decendent
decemviri	group of 10 magistrates	decemvir, decemvirate
deceptivus	deceptive	deceit, deception
delere	destroy	deletion, deleterious

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LATIN WORD	MEANING	USAGE EXAMPLES
deligere, legi	choose	delegate
deludere	delude, take in, fool, dupe	deluded, delusion
dens, dentis	tooth	dentist, dental, dentifrice
densa	thick	dense, densely, density
deponere	to lay down	depone, deponent, deposit
deportare	to remove	deport, deportation
deprecorius	disapproving, disparaging, denigratory, derogatory	deprecatory, deprecate
desidare	to want	desire, desirable, desirability
desperare	to despair	despair, desperate, desperation
despicabilis	contemptible, loathsome, detestable,	despicable, despy
despondere	despondence	despondency
deus	god	deity, deism, deist
dexter	on the right	dexterous, ambidextrous, dexterity
dicit	says	dictate, dictation, dictionary
difficilis	difficult	difficult, difficulty
digitus	finger	digital
diligenter	carefully, diligently	diligently, diligent, diligency
dimittere, -misi	dismiss	dismiss, dismissal, dismissive
dirus	dreadful, horrible, awful,	dire
discipulus	pupil	disciple, discipleship, discipline
disruptus, disruptionem	interrupt, disturb	disrupt, disruption, disruptive, disrupted
dissimilis	dissimilar	dissimilar, dissimilarity
docere	teach	docent, doctrine, document, documentary
dolere	grieve	doleful, dolorous, dolesome
dolor	grief	dolor, dolorous
dominus	master	dominate, domineering, dominant
donum	gift	donate, donation, donor
dormire	to sleep	dormitory, dormant, dormouse
draco	dragon	dragon, draconic, draconian, dragonfly
dubium	doubt	indubitably, dubious, doubt
durus	hard	durable, durability
edere	to eat	edible, edibility, inedible
efficare	finish	effect, effectual, ineffectual
effulgentia, effulgentem	shining brightly, radiant.	effulgence, effulgent
egregius	outstandingly bad, shocking.	egregious
elicitus	to evoke or draw out	elicit
epistula	source of knowledge, in the form of letters	epistle, epistolary, epistemology
eques, equitis	horseman	equestrian, equitation
equivocare or aequivocationem	use ambiguous language to conceal the truth	equivocate, equivocation
equus	horse	equitation, equine, equestrian

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LATIN WORD	MEANING	USAGE EXAMPLES
erasus	to rub out or remove	erase
errare	to wander, err	err, error, errant
et cetera	and the rest of such things	etc
est	is	estate, establish, essence
evadere	to escape	evade, evasive, evasion
evocare	call forth	evoke, evocable, evocator
excerptus or excerptum	short extract	excerpt
excruciatu	torment (someone) physically or mentally	excruciate, excruciating
exertus	make a physical/mental effort	exert, exertion
exhilaratus, exhilarationem	thrill, excite, intoxicate	exhilarate, exhilaration
exitare	to stir up	excite, excitement, excitable
expectare	to expect	expect, expectant, expectation
expatiatus	speak/write at length about	expatiate, expiation
expedientia	(of an action) convenient & practical in circumstances	expedience, expediency, expedient
expirare	expire	expire, expiration, expirator
explorator	explorer	explorer, explore, exploration
expostulare	express strong disapproval or disagreement	expostulate
extollere	praise enthusiastically	extol
extra	beyond	extra, extramural, extraneous
facile	easily	facile, facilitate, facility
factum	fact	fact, factitive, faction
fama	fame	fame, famous, infamous
fecere, feci	to make	manufacture, perfect, factory
feles	cat	feline
felix, felicitas	happy	felicity, felicitous, felicitate
femina	woman	feminine, effeminate, femme
femina	woman	feminine, female
ferox, ferocis	wild	ferocious, ferocity
ferus	fierce	fierce, ferocious, ferocity, feral
fidus/fide	faithful	fidelity, fiduciary, infidelity
figura	figure, shape	figure, figurine, figment, figurative
filia	daughter	filly, filial
filius	son	filial, filiation
finis	limit, end	finis, finish, finite
firmiter	firmly	firm, firmly, affirmative
flamma	flame	flame, flamboyant, flambeau
flammeus	fiery	flammable, inflammable, flame
flavus	yellow	flavescent, flavin, flavine
fluere, fluxi	to flow	fluent, fluid, fluency
flumen	river	flume

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LATIN WORD	MEANING	USAGE EXAMPLES
fluvius	stream, river	fluent, fluvial, flux
focus	hearth	focal, focalize, focus
folium	leaf	foliage, foliaceous, foliar
formica	ant	formicate, formicary
fortis	brave	fortify, fortitude, fortitudinous
frater, fratris	brother	fraternity, fratricide, fraternize
frumentum	grain	frumentaceous, frumenty
frustra	in vain	frustrate, frustration
fugare	to flee	fugitive, centrifuge, fugue
fumus	smoke	fume, fumigate, fumatory
galea	helmet	galeate, galeated
geminus	twin	geminate
gemma	jewel	gem
genus	kind	genus, generic, generate
gladius	sword	gladiator, gladiola, gladiatorial
grata	pleasing	grateful, gratitude, gratuity
gravis	heavy	gravity, gravid, gravitate
gustare	to taste	gusto, gustatory
habere	have	have, habit, habitual
habitare	to live	habitat, habitable, habitation
herba	herb	herb, herbivorous, herbage
homo	man	homunculus, homo
hora	hour	hour, hourglass
horridus	dreadful, frightful	horrid, horrible, horrendous
hortus	garden	horticulture, horticulturist
hostis	enemy	hostile, hostility
hyphen	the sign -, used to join words	hyphen
ignis/ ignire	set fire to	ignite, ignition, igniter ignite
imperator	leader	emperor, empery, emperorship
imperium	empire	imperial, imperialism, empire
impingere	to have an effect or bearing on	Impinge
in	in	in
inceptionem	beginning, starting point	inception
inchoatus	just begun, incomplete	inchoate
incipere	begin	inception, incipient, incipience
infelix, infelicitas	unhappy, unfortunate; inappropriate	infelicitous, infelicity
inflare	fill with air, exaggerate, increase (something)	inflatable, inflate
initium	beginning, start	initial, initially, initiation, initiate
inquærere	investigate, look into, request information on	inquire, enquire
Intruder	enter with disruptive or adverse effect.	intrude, intruder, intrusive
insidiae	ambush	insidious

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LATIN WORD	MEANING	USAGE EXAMPLES
insula	island	insular, insulate, insularity
inter	between, among	interact, intermingle, interpose
invader	to invade	invade, invasion, invader
invenire	to find	invent, invention, inventor
invidiosa	jealous	invidious, invidiously
irata	angry	irate, irritable
island	insular	insular
iter, internis	trip	itinerary
jactare	to hurl	jactation
janua	door	January, janitor, janitress
jocus, jocularis	prank, stunt, hoax,	joke, jocular
jubere	to order	just, justice, justicible
judicium	judgment	judicial, judiciary, judicious
judicium	trial (court)	judicial
jejunus	naive, simplistic, superficial	jejune
jungere	to join	junction, conjunction, injunction
juvenis	youth	juvenile, juvenescence, juvenility
laborare	to work	labour, laboratory, laborious
lacrimare	to cry, weep	lacrimal, lachrymose, lacrimatory
laeta	happy	elate, elation
lata	wide, broad	latitude, lateral, latitudinal
latere	hide	latent, latency
laudare/laud	to praise	laudable, laud, laudability, applaud, applause
laurus	laurel tree	laureal, laureate, lauraceous
legatus	representative	legate, legacy, legislate
legio, legionis	legion	legio, legionary, legionnaire
leo, leonis	lion	leonie, Leo
lex, legis	law	legislate, legal, legality
liber, li	book	library, liber
libera	free	liberal, liberator, liberate
ligneous	wooden	ligneous, lignin, lignify
lignum	wood	lignify, lignose, ligneous
lingua	language	language, lingual, linguistics
lion	leo	leonine
locus	place	locus, location, locate
longa	long	longitude, longevity, long
lucere, luxi	to shine	translucent, lucid, luciferous
ludere, lusi	to play	ludicrous
lumen	light	luminous, luminescence, illuminate
luna	moon	luna, lunar, lunatic
lux, lucis	light/daylight	(see lucere)
maga	sorceress	magic, magician, magical
magister	teacher	magistrate, magisterial, magistracy

LATIN WORD	MEANING	USAGE EXAMPLES
magna	large, great	magnify, magnificent, magnitude
major	larger	major, majority
male	badly	malevolent, malnutrition, malpractice
malificum	evil deed	malefic, malifidence, malificent
major	larger	major, majority
male	badly	malevolent, malnutrition, malpractice
malificum	evil deed	malefic, malifidence, malificent
malus	bad, evil, wicked	malevolent, malicious, malpractice
manere	to stay	remain, remainder
mare	sea	marine, maritime, mariner
mare	sea	marine
maritima	sea	maritime
mater	mother	matriarch, matriarchal, mater, materfamilias, matricide, maternal, maternity
mea	me	me, my
medicus	doctor, medicine	medicine, medical, medication
medius	middle	medium, mediocre, mediate
melior	better	meliorate, ameliorate, amelioration
meminsse	remember	remember, reminisce, memory
mensis	month	menstruum, mensal, semester
merger	combine to form a single entity	merge
meridius	mid-day	meridian
meretricius	flashy, pretentious, gaudy	meretricious,
middle	media	median
miles, militis	soldier	military, militarize, militarism
milia	miles	miles
mille	thousand	millennium, millimeter, milligram
minime	no	minimal, minimum
minor, minus	smaller	minor, minority, minus
mira	strange	miracle, miraculous, mirage
misera	sad	misery, miserable
mittere	to send	transmit, transmitter, emit
modus	manner	mode, modern, moderate
monere	to warn	admonish, admonition
mons, montis	mountain	monticule, mountain, mount
monstrare	to show	demonstrate, demonstration
morbus	disease	morbid, morbidity, morbidic
morus	stupid person	moron, moronically
mors, mortis	death	mortuary, mortal, mortality
mortuus	dead	mortuary, mortician, mortality
multa	many	multitude, multiple, multiplex
multitudinis	crowd	multitude, multitudinous
mundus	world	mundane
munire	fortify	munition, ammunition, muniment

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LATIN WORD	MEANING	USAGE EXAMPLES
murus	wall	mural, muralist
mutare	to change	mutation, commute, transmute
nauseam	sickness	nauseous, ad nauseam
nauta	sailor	nautical, nautilus
navis	ship	navy, naval, navigate
necare	to kill	necropolis, necrology
necese	necessary	necessary, necessarily, unnecessary
nefarious	wicked, evil, sinful, iniquitous, villainous	nefarious
neglegere	to disregard	neglect, neglectful, negligible
negotium	business	negotiate, negotiable, negotiator
nihil	nothing	nihilism, nihilistic, nihilist
noctu	night	noctourne, nocturnal
nomen, nominis	name	nominal, nomenclature, nominative
nominare	to name	nominate, nominal, name, nominative
non	not	non-fiction, non-metal, non-existent
nota	noted	noted, note, notice, notable, noticeable
nota bene	note well	NB
nova	new	novice, novel, novelty, nova, Nova Scotia
noxium	harmful or injurious to health or physical well-being	noxious
nugatorius	nugatory	nugatory
numero	number	numeral
numerus	number	numeral, numerology, numerical
nuntiare	to announce	announce, announcement, announcer
nympha	nymph	nymph, nymphal, nymphalia, nymphomaniac
obduratus	stubborn, obstinate, unyielding	obdurate
obnoxiosus	extremely unpleasant	obnoxious
obscura	dark	obscure, obscured, obscurity
obtinere	to obtain	obtain, obtainable, obtainment
occidere	cut down	occidental, occident
occupare	to occupy	occupy, occupation, occupational
oculus	eye	ocular
oculus	eye	ocular, oculist, oculomotor
oleum	oil	(ending) -ole, oleo, oleic
ominosus	prophetic significant event.	omen, ominous
omnia	all	omnibus, omnipotent, omniscient
opprimere	to press down	oppress, oppression, oppressor
orare	to ask for	oracle, oral, oracular
ovis	sheep	ovine
paeninsula	peninsula	peninsula
pagina	performance	pageant
pars, partis	part	part, partial, partiality
parva	small	parval, parvanimity

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LATIN WORD	MEANING	USAGE EXAMPLES
pater	father	paternal, patriarch, paternalism, paternity, patricide
patria	native country	patriotic, expatriate, patriotism
pauci	few	paucity
pax, pacis	peace	pacifist, pacifier, pacifistic
pectus	chest (anatomy)	pectoral
pecunia	money	pecuniary, pecuniarily, impecunious
pejor	worse	pejorative, perorate, pejoration
pellucidus	crystal clear, easily understood	Pellucid
penna	feather	pen, penmanship, pencil
penuriosus	extremely poor, impoverished	penurious
percipientem	having sensitive insight or understanding	percipience, percipient
perficere	to finish	perfect, perfection, perfectible
perfidius	treachery	perfidious, perfidy
perfidus	faithless	perfidy, perfidious
perfunctorius	action carried out without real interest, feeling, or effort	perfunctory
periculosa	dangerous	perilous, peril
perire	to perish	perish, perishable
persona	person	person (as in <i>persona non grata</i> - an unacceptable or unwelcome person)
pes, pedis	foot	ped, biped, quadraped
petere	to pursue	petulant, petulancy
picture	picture	picture, picturesque, pictorial
pirate	pirate	pirate, piratical
placidus	calm	placid, placidity
plenus	full	plenty, plentiful, plenum, plenary
plumbeus	leaden	plumbing, plumbous, plumbic, plumbeous
plus	more	Plus
poena	punishment	penalty, penal, penalize
pomum	fruit	pome, pommel, pomade
populus	people	populous, population, popular
porcus	pig	Porcine
porta	gate	port, portal, porthole
portare	to carry	portable, porter, port
portendere	sign or warning of (usually) something bad	portend, portent
possum	to be able	posse, potent, impotent, omnipotent
post	after	Post-mortem, postnatal, postpone
postea	later	postlude, postgraduate, posthumous
postulare	to demand	postulate, postulant, postulation
potens, potentis	powerful	potent, potentate, omnipotent
potentia	power	potential, potency, potentate
praecipere	to teach	precept, perceptive, preceptor

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LATIN WORD	MEANING	USAGE EXAMPLES
praemium	prize	premium
pratiuosus	precious	precious, preciousness
praedicamentum	a difficult, unpleasant, or embarrassing situation	predicament
praefator	introduction	prefatory, preface
praeposterus	utterly absurd or ridiculous	preposterous
praescribo	to prescribe	prescribe, prescription
praevius	before,	previous, previously
prima	first	prime, primary, primitive, primeval
prior	existing or occurring before in time or order	prior, priority
pro	for	Pro
pro	before	prophet, propolis, prodrome
probare	test, try	problem, probe, prove
procedere, -cessi	to proceed	proceed, procession, process
propinqua	near to	propinquity
protegere	to protect	protect, protector, protection
protrudere	stick out, jut, jut out, poke out	protrude, protrusion, protuberance
provincia	province	province, provincial, provincialism
provocare	provoke	provoke, provocation, provocative
proximus	nearest	proximity, approximate, proximal
prurientem	excessively interested in sexual matters	Prurient
puer	boy	puerile, puerility, puerilism
pugnare	fight	pugnacious, pugilist, pugnacity
pulchra, pulchritude, pulchritudino	beautiful	pulchritude, pulchritudinous
punire	to punish	punish, punishable, punitive
quaerere	seek, query	inquiry, inquire, inquisitive
quieta	quiet	quiet, quietude, disquiet
quinque	five	quintet, quinquagesima, quintuplets
radius	ray	radius, radial, radiation, radiant
ramus	branch	ramose, ramiform, ramous
ratio	reason	rational
recedere	to withdraw	recede, recession
recessus	Remote/secret place, moving from	recess, recessional
recipere	to take	recipient, recipe, recipience
recte	in a straight line	rectangle, rectilinear, rectify
recumbentem	stretched out, sprawled, spreadeagled	recumbent
reducare	bring back	reduce, reduction, reducer
refundere	give back, pay back	Refund
regare, rexi	to rule	regal, rex, regency, regulation
regia	palace	regal, regalia, regality
relapsus	deteriorate after a period of improvement	relapse

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LATIN WORD	MEANING	USAGE EXAMPLES
relinquere	leave	relinquish, relinquishment
remus	oar,	remiges, remex, remigial
renegare	go back on a promise, undertaking, or contract	renege
resistere	to resist	resist, resistant, irresistible
respicare	to look back	respect, respectable, respectful
resurgere	to rise again	resurge, resurgent
retaliare	fight back, strike back, hit back	Retaliate
retinere	to retain	retain, retainer, retainment
revolvere	move in a circle on a central axis	revolve
ridere	to laugh	ridicule, ridiculous, derisive
ripa	river bank	riparian, Riparian
rogare	to ask	rogation, rogatory, derogate
remora	hindrance, delay (composed of the prefix <i>re-</i> "back, backward, again" and the noun <i>mora</i> - delay, obstacle, pause)	moratorium, demur
rostrum	beak	rostral, rostrate, rostrum
rufus	reddish brown in colour	rufous
saccus	bag	sack, sac, saccate
sacer, sacra	holy	sacrament, sacerdotal, sacrium, sacred
saevus	fierce	savage, savagery, savigism
sagitta	arrow	Sagittarius
sal, salsus	salt	Saline
sapiens, sapientis	wise	sapient, sapience, sapience
satis	enough	satisfy, satisfaction, satisfiable
saxum	rock	saxatile, saxicoline, saxifrage
scholaris	school	scholar, school, scholastic
scientia	science, knowledge	science, scientific, scientist
scribere, scribillare	write or draw (something) carelessly or hurriedly	scribble, scribe
scrinium	a place containing memorabilia of a particular revered person or thing	shrine
scutum	shield	scutate, scute scutellate
secludere	keep (someone) away from other people	seclude, seclusion
secreto	secretly	secret, discretion
secundus	Second	second, secondary, second-hand
sedere	to sit	sediment, sedimentary
semen, -inis	seed	semen, seminal
senator	senator	senator, senate, senatorial
sentire	to sense	sense, sensible, sensation, sentiment
serpens, serpentis	snake	serpent, serpentiform, serpentarium, serpentine
servare	to save	serve, conserve, preserve
servus	slave	serve, servant, servitude
significare	signify	signify, significant, insignificant

LATIN WORD	MEANING	USAGE EXAMPLES
sinister	on the left	sinister, sinistral, sinistrodextral
socius	companion	associate, social, association, antisocial
sol, solis	sun	solar, solarium, solarism
sola	alone	solo, sole, solace
somnus	sleep	somnambulant, insomnia, somniferous
sonus	sound	sonar, sonorous, sonic, sonogram
soror	sister	sororeal, sorority, soricide
spatium	space	spatial, spatially, spatio-temporal
spectare	to watch	spectate, spectator, spectacular
spelunca	cave	spelunker, spelian
spina	thorn	spine, spinal, spinescent
spumosos	foamy	spumous, spumy
spatium	space	spatial, spatially, spatio-temporal
spectare	to watch	spectate, spectator, spectacular
spelunca	cave	spelunker, spelian
spina	thorn	spine, spinal, spinescent
spumosos	foamy	spumous, spumy
stella	star	stellar, constellation
strictura	a restriction or a narrowing	stricture, restricted
sub	under	subway, subterranean, suburban
subducere	to haul up	subduce, subdue, subduct
summus	highest	Summit
superba	proud	superb, superbly
superbe	proudly	superb, superbly
tabernaculum	tent	tabernacle, tabernacular
tacitus	silent	taciturn, tacit, taciturnity
tactus	touch	tactile
taurus	bull	tauriform, taurine, taurine
temere	rashly	temerarious, temerity
temptare	to try	tempt, temptation, attempt
tempus	time	tempo, temporal, temporary
tenere	to hold	tenure, tenant, tenacity
terra	land, earth	terrier, terrace, terrestrial, terrain
terrare	to frighten	terrify, terrible, terrific
territa	frightened	terrified, terrific, teresy
tertius	third	tertiary, tertium, tercical
tergiversor	to often change one's attitude or opinions with respect to a cause, subject, etc.; equivocate	tergiversate
texare	to weave	textile, texture, text
timere	to fear	timid, intimidate, intimidation
totus	whole	total, totality, teetotal
trans	across	transport, transmit, transact
transire	to go across	transport, transit, transition

LATIN WORD	MEANING	USAGE EXAMPLES
tremere	to tremble	tremble, tremor, tremulous
trivia	of little importance or value	trivia, trivial
tyrannus	tyrant	tyrant, tyranny, tyrannous
ubiquitarius	appearing in or found everywhere	ubiquitous
ultimus	last	ultimate, ultimatum, ultimately
umbra	shade, ghost	umbrella, penumbra, umbra, umbrage
unda	wave	undulate, undulatory, undulative
unguentum	ointment	unguent, ungunetary, unctuous
urbs	city	urban
urbs	city	urban, urbane, suburb
ursa	bear	ursine
uxor	wife	uxorial, uxorius, uxoricide
vale	farewell	valedictorian
valere	to be well	value, valuable
validus	strong, well	value, valuation, valuable
vapidus	insipid, uninspired, bland, colourless	vapid
vastare	to destroy	vast, waste, vastitude
vehementer	violently	vehement, vehemently, vehemence
venenum	poison	venom, venomous
ventus	wind	ventilate, ventilator, ventiduct, vent
verbatim	word for word, letter for letter, literal	verbatim
verbum	word	verbal, verbose, verb
verum	truth	verity, veritability, verify
verus	true, genuine	very, verily, verism
vesperi	in the evening	vespers, vespertilionine, vespertine
vestigium	footprint	vestige, vestigial, vestigium
vexare	to harass	vex, vexation, vexacious
via	street	via
vicinius	neighbour	vicinity, vicinial, vicinage
videre	to see	video, vision, visible
vigilare	to stand watch	vigilant, vigil, vigilance
villa	villa, house	villa, village, villager
vincere	to conquer	invincible, vincible, vincibility
vindemia	quality from period, era, epoch, time	vintage
vir	man	virile, virility, virilism
vita	life	vital, vitality, vitalize
vitare	to avoid	inevitable, inevitably, inevitability
vivere	to live	vivacious, vivacity
vivus	alive	viva, vivarium, vivid
vocare	to call	vocal, vocation, vocative, evoke, evocative, convocation
volare	to fly	volplane, volley
vox, vocis	voice	magnavox, voice, vociferous
vulnerare	to wound	vulnerable, invulnerable, vulnerary

Words and their meaning from Latin Roots

Many English words and word parts can be traced back to Latin. The following table lists some common Latin roots.

LATIN ROOT	MEANING	EXAMPLE ROOT WORDS
ab	to move away	abstract, abstain, abhor
acer, acri	bitter	acid, acrimony, exacerbate
acid	acidic, sour	acidiferous, acidity, acidosis, acidulation, acidulous
aev, ev	age	longevity, medieval, primeval
audi	hear	audible, audience, auditorium
bene	good	benefit, benign, benefactor, beneficial
brev	short	abbreviate, brief, brevity
circ	round	circus, circulate, circulation
dict	to say	contradict, dictate, diction, edict, predict, dictionary
duc	to lead, bring, take	deduce, produce, reduce
gen	birth heredity	gene, generate, generous
gress	to walk	digress, progress, transgress
hal	breath	inhale, anhelous, exhalable, exhalant, exhale, halitosis
hospit	host	hospice, hospitality, inhospitable
insul	island	insular, insulation
jac	lie by or near	adjacency, adjacent, circumjacency, circumjacent
ject	to throw	eject, inject, interject, project, reject, subject
jur	law, justice	jury, jurisdiction, abjure
laps	slide, slip	collapse, elapse, lapse
lev	to lift	levitate, elevate, elevator, leverage
libr	book	library, libretto, librarian
line	smear, smudge	delete, deletion, indelible, liniment, delineate
log	thought	logic, apologise, analogy
lun	moon	luna, lunar, lunatic, lunacy
macer	lean	emaciate, macerate
macro	large, great	macroevolution, macromolecule, macroeconomics
magn	great, large	magnanimous, magnificent, magnate
manu	hand	manual, manicure, manipulate, manuscript
merge, mers	dip, dive	immerge, immerse
miser	unhappy, wretched	commiseration, miser, miserable, misery
miss, mit	send, let go	dismiss, emit, missile, transmit, misnomer
mob	move	immobilise, mobile, mobility
mon/o	one, single	monochromat, monologue, monotheism
morph/o	form	metamorphosis, amorphous
mort	death	immortal, mortal, mortician
multi	many, more than one or two	multicoloured, multimedia, multitasking
nav	ship	circumnavigate, naval, navigate
necr/o	dead, death	necrophilia, necrosis, necrology
neo	new, recent	neoclassic, neocolonialism, neonatal

LATIN ROOT	MEANING	EXAMPLE ROOT WORDS
omni	all	omnivorous, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipotent
pac	peace	pacify, pacific, pacifist
pel	to drive	compel, dispel, impel, repel
pend	to hang	append, depend, impend, pendant, pendulum
port	to carry	comport, deport, export, import, report, support
quit	silent, restive	tranquil, requiem, acquit
sax	rock	saxatile, saxicavous, saxicoline, saxifrage, saxifragous
sens	to feel	sensitive, sentient, resent
septim	seventh	septimal, September
scrib, script	to write	describe, description, prescribe, prescription, subscribe, subscription, transcribe, transcription
tract	to pull, drag, draw	attract, contract, detract, extract, protract, retract, traction
sole	accustomed	insolence, insolent, obsolescence
soci	group	social, associate, society
somni	sleep	somnambulist, somnifacient, somniferous
suav	sweet	assuage, suave, suavity
tac, tic	be silent	reticent, reticence, tacit, taciturn
tempor	time	tempo, temporal, temporary
terr	earth	inter, subterranean, terrace, terracotta
tim	to fear	timid, timorous
tot	all, whole	total, totality, subtotal
und	wave	abound, abundance, abundant, inundant, inundate
vac	empty	vacuum, vacate, evacuate
val	strength, worth	ambivalence, avail, equivalent, evaluate, prevail, valence
vers	turn	adverse, adversity, advertise, anniversary
vert	to turn	convert, divert, invert, revert, subvert
vid, vis	to see	video, vivid, invisible
viv	live	convivial, revive, survive, viable, victual, vivacious
vor	swallow	carnivorous, devour, herbivore, voracious, voracity
voc	call, voice	advocate, avocation, convocation, evoke, invoke, provoke, revocation, revoke, vocabulary, vocal, vocation



Latin Proverbs

The following list of Latin proverbs and sayings is from Wikiquote, alphabetised by the first word of the proverb: see full detail at https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Latin_proverbs including author/source.

A

- **A diabolo, qui est simia dei.**

English equivalent: Where god has a church the devil will have his chapel.

- **Abbati, medico, patrono que intima pande.**

English equivalent: Conceal not the truth from thy physician and lawyer.

- **Absens haeres non erit.**

English equivalent: Out of sight, out of mind.

- **Abyssus abyssum invocat.**

English equivalent: Deep calls to deep.

- **Quidquid praecipies esto brevis.**

"Whatever advice you give, be short."

- **Acquirit qui tuetur.**

English equivalent: Sparing is the first gaining.

- **Acta Non Verba.**

English equivalents: Words are leaves, deeds are fruits.

- **Ancipiti plus ferit ense gula.**

English equivalent: Gluttony kills more than the sword.

- **Aegrescit medendo.**

English equivalent: The remedy is often worse than the disease; Burn not your house to rid it of the mouse.

- **Aegroto dum anima est, spes est.**

English equivalent: As long as there is life there is hope.

- **Aequae pars ligni curvi ac recti valet igni.**

English equivalent: Crooked logs make straight fires.

- **Age quod agis.**

Translation and English equivalent: Do what you do, in the sense of "Do well what you do", "Do well in whatever you do" or "Be serious in what you do"

- **Age si quid agis.**

Translation: "If there is something [quid for aliquid] you do (well), carry on", "If you do something, do it well" see also "**Age quod agis**"

English equivalent: Bloom where you are planted.

- **Aliis si licet, tibi non licet.**

Translation: If others are allowed to, that does not mean you are. (see also **quod licet lovi, non licet bovi**)

- **Aliquis in omnibus est nullus in singulis.**

Translation: Someone in all, is nothing in one.

English equivalent: Jack of all trades, master of none; Jack of all trades begs bread on Sundays.

- **Arcem ex cloacâ facere.**

English equivalent: Don't make a mountain out of a molehill.

- **Aries cornibus lasciviens.**

English equivalent: Better fed than taught. "For if absurdity be the subject of laughter, doubt you not but great boldness is seldom without some absurdity."

- **Atqui, e lotio est.**

Translation: Yet it comes from urine.

- **Auctoritas non veritas facit legem**

Translation: Authority, not truth, makes law.

- **Audaces fortuna iuvat.**

English equivalent: Fortune favours the bold/brave.

- **Audi, vide, tace, si tu vis vivere (in pace).**

Translation: Hear, see, be silent, if you wish to live (in peace). Roman proverb, according to this.

English equivalent: Rather see than hear.

- **Aut inveniam viam aut faciam.**

Alternate phrasing: **Aut viam inveniam aut faciam**

Translation: I'll either find a way or make one.

English equivalent: Where there's a will, there's a way.

B

- **Basio saepe volam, cui plagam diligo solam.**

English equivalent: Many kiss the hand they wish to cut off.

- **Bellum se ipsum alet.**

War will feed on itself.

- **Bene diagnoscutur, bene curatur.**

English equivalent: A disease known is half cured.

- **Bis dat qui cito dat.**

English equivalent: He gives twice, who gives in a trice.

-
- **Brevis oratio penetrat coelos; Longa potatio evacuat scyphos.**

English equivalent: Short prayers reach heaven.

C

-
- **Canus honoretur, puer ad documenta citetur.**

English equivalent: Grey hairs are honourable.

- **Carpe diem.**

Translation: "Seize the day." By Horace, Odes I, I I, 8, to Leuconoe: carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero ("take hold of the day, believing as little as possible in the next").

- **Carthago delenda est.**

Translation: "Carthage is to be destroyed." Actually, *ceterum censeo Carthaginem esse delendam* ("Apart from that, I conclude that Carthage must be destroyed") Cato the Elder used to end every speech of his to the Senate, on any subject whatsoever, with this phrase. Mentioned to indicate that someone habitually harps on one subject.

- **Cave ab homine unius libri.**

English translation: Fear the man of one book.

- **Cedens in uno cedit in pluribus.**

English equivalent: Virtue which parleys is near a surrender.

- **Citius venit malum quam revertitur.**

English equivalent: Misfortune comes on horseback and goes away on foot.

- **Cito maturum cito putridum.**

English equivalent: Early ripe, early rotten.

- **Cogitationes posteriores sunt saniores.**

English equivalent: Second thoughts are best; We shall lose nothing by waiting.

- **Consilio, quod respuitur, nullum subest auxilium.**

English equivalent: He that will not be counselled cannot be helped.

- **Consuetudinis magna vis est**

English equivalent: Old habits die hard.

- **Consuetudo altera natura est.**

English equivalent: Old habits die hard.

- **Contritium praecedat superbia.**

English equivalent: Pride comes before a fall.

- **Cor boni concilii statue tecum non est enim tibi aliud pluris illo.**

English equivalent: Though thou hast ever so many counsellors, yet do not forsake the counsel of thy own soul.

- **Corruptissima re publica plurimae leges.**

Translation: The greater the degeneration of the republic, the more laws it makes.

-
- **"Credula est spes improba.**

English equivalent: He that lives on hope dances without music.

- **Crede quod habes, et habes.**

English equivalent: Fake it till you make it.

- **Cui caput dolet, omnia membra languent.**

English equivalent: When the head is sick, the whole body is sick.

- **Cuilibet fatuo placet sua calva.**

English equivalent: Every fool is pleased with his own folly.

- *Cuiusvis hominis est errare, nullius nisi insipientis in errore perseverare.*

Any man can make a mistake; only a fool keeps making the same one.

- **Curae canitiem inducunt.**

English equivalent: Fretting cares make grey hairs.

- **Custode et cura natura potentior omni.**

English equivalent: Nature is beyond all teaching.

D

-
- **De gustibus non est disputandum.**

Translation: There is no disputing about tastes.

English equivalent: There is no accounting for taste.

Alternative form: **De gustibus et coloribus non est disputandum.**

Translation: There's no arguing about tastes and colours.

- **Deus quem punire vult dementat.**

English equivalent: Whom God will destroy, he first make mad.

- **Diem vesper commendat.**

Translation: Celebrate the day when it is evening. (Meaning: Don't celebrate until you are 100% sure there is a reason to do so.; Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.)

- **Difficile est longum subito deponere amorem.**

English equivalent: True love never grows old.

- **Dii facientes adiuvant.**

Translation: Gods help those who do.

English equivalent: God helps them that help themselves.

- **Dives aut iniquus est, aut iniqui heres.**

English equivalent: No one gets rich quickly if he is honest.

- ***Dives est qui sibi nihil deesse putat.***

Translation: The rich man is the one who thinks to himself that nothing was lacking.
English equivalent: Wealth rarely brings happiness.

- ***Divide et impera.***

Translation: Divide and govern [or conquer].
Meaning: "The best way to conquer or control a group of people is by encouraging them to fight among themselves rather than allowing them to unite in opposition to the ruling authority."

- ***Docendo discimus.***

Translation: We learn by teaching. (*Seneca*)

- ***Ductus Exemplo***

Translation: Lead by Example.

- ***Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori.***

Translation: It is sweet and honourable to die for the fatherland.

- ***Dulce pomum quum abest custos.***

Translation: Sweet is the apple when the keeper is away.

English equivalent: Forbidden fruit is sweetest.

- ***Dulcior illa sapit caro, quae magis ossibus haeret.***

English equivalent: The sweetest flesh is near the bones.

- ***Dum canem caedimus, corrosisse dicitur corrium.***

Translation: If you want to beat a dog you will easily find a stick.

- ***Dum satur est venter, gaudet caput inde libenter.***

Translation: When the belly is full, the head is pleased.

English equivalent: Full stomach, contented heart.

- ***Dum spiro, spero.***

English equivalent: As long as there is life there is hope.

- ***Dum vivimus, vivamus!***

Translation: While we live, let us live!

- ***Dum vita est, spes est.***

Translation: While there is life, there is hope.

E

- ***Ecce omnis, qui dicit vulgo proverbium, in te assumet illud dicens: Sicut mater, ita et filia ejus.***

Translation: Behold, everyone that useth a common proverb, shall use this against thee, saying, As is the mother, so is her daughter.
English equivalent: Like mother, like daughter.

- ***Effectus sequitur causam.***

Translation: Effect follows a reason.
English equivalent: Every why has a wherefore ("Everything has an underlying reason.")

- ***Eodem cubito, eadem trutina, pari libra.***

Translation: The elbow, the same balance, an equal balance.

English equivalent: Whatever measure you deal out to others will be dealt back to you.

- ***Ex granis fit acervus.***

Translation: A heap is made from grains.
English equivalent: Every little helps.

- ***Et ipsa scientia potestas est.***

Translation: "And knowledge itself, is power"

- ***Ex malis moribus bonae leges natae sunt.***

Translation: Bad customs have given birth to good laws.

- ***Ex nihilo nihil fit.***

Translation: "Nothing comes from nothing"

- ***Exceptio probat regulam in casibus non exceptis.***

Translation: "The exception confirms the rule in cases not excepted" (*Cicero, Pro Balbo*)

- ***Excusatio non petita, accusatio manifesta.***

English equivalent: A guilty conscience needs no accuser.

- ***Extremis malis extrema remedia.***

Translation: Extreme remedies for extreme ills.

English equivalent: Desperate diseases must have desperate remedies.

- ***Expecta bos olim herba.***

Translation: Waiting for the grass the cow dies.

English equivalent: While the grass grows the steed starves.

F

- ***Facilis descensus Averni.***

The descent into hell is easy.

English equivalent: No need of words, trust deeds.

- ***Festina lente!***

Translation: Make haste slowly.

English equivalent: More speed less haste.

- ***Fides facit fidem.***

English equivalent: Confidence begets confidence.

- ***Fidite Nemini***

Translation: Trust no one.

• **Finis origine pendet.**

Translation: The end hangs on the beginning.
 Meaning: The outcome of things depends on how they start.

• **Forma bonum fragile est.**

English equivalent: All that is fair must fade.
 English meaning: Nothing lasts forever.

• **Fortes fortuna iuvat**

Translation: Fortune favours the brave.

• **Fraus hominum ad perniciem, et integritas ad salutem vocat.**

English equivalent: Honesty is the best policy.

G

• **Generosus equus non curat canem latrantem.**

English equivalent: The dogs bark but the caravan passes on. "Everyone's got opinions, but nobody's got the answers" so let the world say what it will.

• **Gloriosum est iniurias oblivisci.**

English equivalent: Forgive and forget.

• **Gutta cavat lapidem**

A drop hollows out the stone.

• **Gutta cavat lapidem non bis, sed saepe cadendo; sic homo fit sapiens non bis, sed saepe legendo.**

A drop hollows out the stone by falling not twice, but many times; so too is a person made wise by reading not two, but many books.

• **Gutta cavat lapidem non vi, sed saepe cadendo**

A drop hollows out the stone not by force but falling many times.

H

• **Historia est vitae magistra.**

Translation: "History is the tutor of life."

• **Hodie mihi, cras tibi.**

Translation: "What's to me today, tomorrow to you."

English equivalent: The door swings both ways; What goes around comes around.

• **Hodie mihi, eras tibi.**

English equivalent: Each dog has his day...

• **Homines quod volunt credunt.**

Translation: "Men believe what they want to." (Julius Caesar)

• **Homo cogitat, Deus iudicat.**

Translation: Man proposes but God disposes.

Meaning: Things often don't turn out as you have planned.

• **Honor sequitur fugientem.**

Translation: Honour follows the fleeing.
 English equivalent: Follow glory and it will flee, flee glory and it will follow thee.

• **Hortamur fari, quo sanguine cretus.**

English equivalent: Good blood always shows itself.

• **Hostium munera, non munera.**

Translation: Gifts of enemies are no gifts.

Note: "This advice has its root in the story of the Trojan Horse, the treacherous subterfuge by which the Greeks finally overcame their trojan adversaries at the end of the Trojan War."

English equivalent: Beware of Greeks bearing gifts. Meaning: "Do not trust gifts or favors if they come from an enemy."

I Note: I and J are the same letter in Latin.

• **Ignavum fortuna repugnat.**

Fortune disdains the lazy...

• **Ignorantia legis non excusat**

Translation: Ignorance of the law is no excuse.

• **Imperare sibi maximum imperium est.**

Translation: To rule yourself is the ultimate power. (Seneca)

• **Improbe Neptunum accusat, qui iterum naufragiam facit.**

English equivalent: He complains wrongfully at the sea that suffer shipwreck twice.

Meaning: Don't do the same thing again and expect different results.

• **In dubio, abstine.**

Translation: When in doubt, abstain.

English equivalent: When in doubt, leave it out. Meaning: "If you are unsure what to do, it is best to do nothing at all."

• **In dubio pro reo.**

Translation: "When in doubt, favour the accused". (Corpus Juris Civilis)

• **In iudicando criminosa est celeritas.**

Translation: Hasty judgments are criminal.

English equivalent: Hasty judgment leads to repentance. Meaning: A quick evaluation is a terrible evaluation.

• **In necessariis unitas, in dubiis libertas, in omnibus caritas**

Translation: "In necessary things unity, in doubtful things liberty, in all things charity"

• **In nullum avarus bonus est, in se pessimus.**

English equivalent: The covetous man is good to none and worst to himself.

-
- ***In propria causa nemo debet esse iudex.***

Translation: No one should be the judge in his own trial.

English equivalent: No one can be the judge in his own case.

- ***In risu agnoscitur fatuus.***

English equivalent: A fool is ever laughing.

- ***In vino veritas.***

Translation: There is truth in wine.

English equivalent: In wine there is truth.

Meaning: Alcohol consumed removes the inhibition against telling the truth that occasionally one would like to keep secret.

- ***Inimicum quamvis humilem docti est metuere.***

Idiomatic and literal translation: There is no little enemy.

Literal translation: The wise man must fear a humble enemy.

- ***Innumeras curas secum adferunt liberi.***

Translation: Children bring with them countless cares.

English equivalent: Children are uncertain comforts but certain cares.

Meaning: "Children are bound to cause their parents anxiety and may or may not also bring them joy."

- ***Intemperans adulescentia effetum corpus tradit senectuti.***

English equivalent: They who would be young when they are old must be old when they are young.

- ***Inter gladium et iugulum.***

English equivalent: Don't go between the tree and the bark.

Meaning: Do not interfere when two parts are having an argument.

- ***Interdum stultus bene loquitur***

English equivalent: "A fool may give a wise man counsel."

- ***Ira furor brevis est.***

Translation: "Anger is brief insanity"

(Horace, epistles I, 2, 62).

Meaning: If you are mad, count to twenty.

- ***Iter per praecepta longum, per exempla, breve et efficax.***

English equivalent: Example is better than precept.

- ***Lucundum est narrare sua mala.***

English equivalent: A problem shared is a problem halved.

K Note: The letter "k" was not commonly used in Classical Latin.

L

- ***"Latet enim veritas, sed nihil pretiosius veritate"*** Francisco Sanchez de las Brozas (Minerva I, I, 40, 16).

Translation: "Truth is hidden, but nothing is more beautiful than the truth"

- ***Lumen soli mutuum das.***

Translation: You are lending light to the sun.

Note: Said of persons who affect to explain what is perfectly clear and intelligible.

M

- ***Macte animo! Generose puer sic itur ad astra!***

Translation: "Be strong, young man! Through this way one gets to the stars." (Motto of the Brazilian Air Force Academy)

- ***Mala herba cito crescit***

Translation: "Weeds grow fast."

- ***Mala hostibus eveniant.***

English equivalent: Shame take him that shame thinketh. "Never attribute to malice that which is adequately explained by stupidity."

- ***Mali principii malus finis.***

Translation: Bad beginnings lead to bad results.

English equivalent: A bad beginning makes a bad ending.

- ***Malum consilium quod mutari non potest.***

Translation: "It is a bad plan that cannot be changed (A plan that cannot be changed is a bad one)."

- ***Malo nodo malus quaerendus cuneus.***

English equivalent: Desperate diseases must have desperate remedies. Meaning: "Drastic action is called for – and justified – when you find yourself in a particularly difficult situation."

- ***Malum quidem nullum esse sine aliquo bono.***

Translation: "There is, to be sure, no evil without something good."

English equivalent: Every cloud has its silver lining.

- ***Manus manum lavat.***

Translation: "One hand washes the other."

- ***Mater artium necessitas.***

Translation: "Necessity is the mother of invention" (Apuleius)

• **Maxima debetur puero reverentia**

Translation: "One owes the greatest possible care for the child" (Juvenal)

• **Medicus curat, natura sanat.**

Translation: "The doctor cares [for his patient], nature heals [him]." or "Doctor cures, nature saves"

• **Melium est nomen bonum quam divitiae multae.**

English equivalent: A good name is the best of all treasures.

• **Memento mori.**

Translation: Remember that you are going to die.

• **Mendacem memorem esse oportet.**

English equivalent: A liar should have a good memory.

Meaning: "Liars must remember the untruths they have told, to avoid contradicting themselves at some later date."

• **Mens regnum bona possidet.**

English equivalent: His own desire leads every man.

• **Merx ultronea putet.**

Translation and English equivalent: Proffered service stinks.

• **Misera fortuna, qui caret inimico.**

Translation: It is a wretched fate which is absent enemies.

English equivalent: If you have no enemies it is a sign that fortune has forgotten you; People throw stones only at trees with fruit on them.

• **Mobiles ad superstitionem percussae semel mentes**

Translation: "Minds once cowed are prone to superstition."

• **Mulier est hominis confusio.**

Translation: "Woman is man's ruin."

• **Multum clamoris, parum lanae.**

Translation and English equivalent: Great cry and little wool. Meaning: "Much ado about nothing."

• **Mundus vult decipi, ergo decipitur.**

Translation: The world desires to be deceived; therefore it is. (Attributed to Petronius)

English equivalent: The world wants to be taken in.

N

• **Ne eligat is qui donum accipit.**

English equivalent: Beggars can't be choosers.

• **Ne puero gladium.**

Do not give a child a sword.

• **Ne quid expectes amicos, quod tute agere possis.**

Translation: Expect nothing from friends, do what you can do yourself.

English equivalent: For what thou canst do thyself, rely not on another.

• **Ne quid nimis**

Translation: "Nothing too much", moderation in all things (Terence).

• **Ne sutor supra crepidam**

English equivalent: A blind man should not judge of colours.

"An uneducated man cannot judge of the attainments of the learned."

• **Nemo regere potest nisi qui et regi.**

English equivalent: Who has not served cannot command.

• **Nemo iudex in causa sua.**

Translation: "No one is a judge in his own case".

• **Nescis quid serus vesper vehat.**

Translation: "You know not what night-fall may bring."

• **Nihil ægrius quam disciplinam accipimus.**

Translation: We receive nothing with so much reluctance as instruction.

English equivalent: Advice most needed is the least heeded.

• **Nitidae vestes ornatiorem reddunt.**

English equivalent: Fine feathers make fine birds.

• **Non alios suo modulo metiri.**

English equivalent: Do not judge others by your own yardstick.

• **Non capiunt lepores tympana rauca leves.**

English equivalent: Drumming is not the way to catch a hare.

Meaning: Don't expect anyone to change his ways by scolding him.

• **Nocere facile est, prodesse difficile.**

English translation: It is easy to do harm, difficult to do good.

- **Non nobis solum nati sumus**

Translation: "We are not born for ourselves alone" Meaning: Each one of us carries a responsibility for the whole world.

- **Non olet**

Translation: "It [money] doesn't smell" (according to Suetonius, Emperor Vespasian was challenged by his son Titus for taxing the public lavatories, the emperor held up a coin before his son and asked whether it smelled)

- **Non opus est follo suspendere tympana collo.**

Translation: A fool does not need any bells. English equivalent: A tongue of a fool carves a piece of his heart to all that sit near him.

- **Non quia difficilia sunt non audemus, sed quia non audemus, difficilia sunt.**

Translation: "It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare, but because we do not dare, things are difficult." (Seneca, Letter to Lucilius, letter 104, section 26, line 5)

- **Non scholae, sed vitae discimus.**

Translation: "We learn not for school but for life." (Seneca's original quotation is "Non vitae, sed scholae discimus.")

- **Non semper erit aestas.**

Translation: "It will not always be summer." (be prepared for hard times)

- **Nulla poena sine lege**

Translation: "No punishment without a law."

- **Nulla regula sine exceptione.**

Translation: "No rule without exception." (1869). Hygiea.

- **Nulli tacuisse nocet, tutum silentii premium.**

English equivalent: Least said, soonest mended. Meaning: "In private animosities and verbal contentions, where angry passions are apt to rise, and irritating, the least said, the better in general. By multiplying words, cases often grow worse instead of better."

- **Nullus est liber tam mallus, ut non aliqua parte prosit.**

English equivalent: No book was so bad, but some good might be got out of it. Meaning: You might typically get something good out of an overall faulty book, especially a non fictional one, such as sound advice or anecdotes to tell others.



- **Oblata arripe.**

English equivalent: When the pig is proffered, hold up the poke.

- **Occidit miseros crambe repetita magistros.**

English equivalent: Take heed of enemies reconciled and of meat twice boiled. Meaning: Your former enemies might cunningly take revenge on you just out of spite.; Trust not a reconciled enemy more than an open foe.

- **Oculus animi index.**

Translation: Eyes are the index of the mind. English equivalent: The eye looks but it is the mind that sees.

- **Omnia cum pretio.**

Translation: All things (in Rome) have their price. Original "omnia Romae cum pretio" Juvenal.

- **Omnibus se accomodat rebus, omnia novit.**

Translation: He who applies himself to all things, knows all things. English equivalent: All is fish that comes to net.

- **Omnium artium medicina nobilissima est.**

Translation: Medicine is the noblest of all arts.

- **Onorate il senno antico.**

English equivalent: Grey hairs are honorable.

- **Oratores fuint, poetae nascuntur.**

English equivalent: Poets are born, but orators are trained. Meaning: Some things can be improved by training, others require innate talent.

- **Optimi natatores saepius submerguntur.**

English equivalent: Good swimmers are often drowned. Meaning: Beware of letting your competence lead you into overconfidence.

- **Optimum medicamentum quies est.**

Translation: Rest is the best medicine.

- **Otia dant vitia.**

English equivalent: Idle hands are the devils playthings.

P

• **Pacta sunt servanda**

Translation: "Agreements must be honoured."

• **Pars est beneficii quod petitur si cito neget.**

Translation: A prompt refusal has in part the grace of a favour granted.

• **Pax melior est quam iustissimum bellum.**

Translation: "Peace is better than the most just war."

• **Pede poena claudo.**

Translation: "Punishment comes limping."
English equivalent: Punishment is lame, but it comes.

• **Periculum in mora.**

Translation: [There's] danger in delay.
Meaning: "Hesitation or procrastination may lead to trouble or disaster."

• **Philosophum non facit barba.**

Translation: "A beard doesn't make a philosopher." (Plutarch)

• **Plus ultra**

Translation: "Further Beyond", Spanish Motto.

• **Piscem vorat maior minorem.**

Translation: The largest fish eat the smallest ones.

• **Post prandium stabis, post coenam ambulabis.**

Translation: "After dinner, rest a while, after supper walk a mile."

• **Potius sero quam numquam**

Translation: "Better late than never" (Livy)

• **Praemonitus, praemunitus**

Translation: "Forewarned (is) forearmed"

• **Praesentem mulge, fugientem quid insequeris.**

Translation: Milk today, for what you are aiming for is fleeing.
English equivalent: One today is worth two tomorrows.

• **Praestat cautela quam medela.**

English equivalent: Prevention is better than cure. Meaning: Precaution is infinitely better than remedial measures.

• **Praemonitus, praemunitus.**

English equivalent: Forewarned, forearmed...

• **Publica fama non semper vana.**

Translation: Provided common, commonly true.
English equivalent: Common fame is often to blame. Meaning: A general disrepute is often true.

• **Pulverulenta novis bene verritur area scopis.**

English equivalent: "New brooms sweep clean."

Meaning: Newcomers are the most ambitious.

Q

• **Qualis rex, talis grex**

Translation: Like king, like people.

• **Qualis pagatio, talis laboratio.**

Translation: What pay, such work.

English equivalent: You get what you pay for.

• **Quam bene vivas refert, non quam diu.**

Translation: How well you live makes a difference, not how long. (Seneca)

• **Quantum Satis.**

Translation: As much as needed, enough.

• **Quem di diligunt, adulescens moritur**

Translation: "Whom the gods love dies young" (Plautus, Bacchides, IV, 7, 18). In the comic play, a sarcastic servant says this to his aging master. The rest of the sentence reads: *dum valet, sentit, sapit*, "while he is full of health, perception and judgement."

• **Quem dii oderunt, paedagogum fecerunt.**

Translation: "Whom the gods hated, they made them pedagogues"

• **Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?**

Translation: Who watches the watchmen?

• **Qui dormit non peccat.**

Translation: "He who sleeps does not sin"

• **Qui habet aures audiendi audiat**

Translation: "Those who have ears to hear, hear!" (Vulgate, Matthew 11:15)

English equivalent: Nature gave us two ears and one mouth.

• **Qui non est hodie, cras minus aptus erit.**

Translation: He who is not ready today, will be less so tomorrow.

English equivalent: He that will not when he may, when he will he may have nay.

Meaning: "Take advantage of an opportunity when it presents itself, even if you do not want or need it at the time, because it may no longer be available when you do."

• **Qui me amat, amet et canem meum.**

English equivalent: Love me, love my dog.

Meaning: If you love someone, you will virtually like everything about him.

• **Qui audet adipiscitur.**

Translation: He who dares wins.

- **Qui multum habet, plus cupit.**
Translation: He who has much desires more. (Seneca)

- **Qui nimis capit, parum stringit.**
English equivalent: Don't have too many irons in the fire.

- **Qui non proficit, deficit.**
Translation: "He who does not go forward, loses ground." or "He who does not accomplish anything, is a failure/has short comings."
English equivalent: He who does not advance goes backwards.

- **Qui primus venerit, primus verat.**
English equivalent: First come, first served.

- **Qui pro innocente dicit, satis est eloquens.**
Translation: "He who speaks for the innocent is eloquent enough." (Publilius Syrus)

- **Qui rogat, non errat.**
Translation: "(One) who asks, doesn't err."
English equivalent: The only stupid question is the one not asked.

- **Qui scribit, bis legit.**
Translation: "Who writes, reads twice."

- **Qui tacet consentire videtur, ubi loqui debuit ac potuit.**
Translation: "Who is silent, when he ought to and might have spoken, is seen to agree."

- **Qui transtulit sustinet.**
Translation: "He who transplanted still sustains." (motto of Connecticut referring to the transplantation of settlers from England to the New World.)

- **Qui vitulum tollit, taurum subduxerit idem.**
English equivalent: He that steals an egg will steal an ox.

- **Qui vult dare parva non debet magna rogare.**
Translation: "He who wishes to give little shouldn't ask for much."

- **Quidquid agis, prudenter agas, et respice finem!**
Translation: Whatever you do, may you do it prudently, and look to the end!
English equivalent: Whatever you do, act wisely, and consider the end.

- **Quidquid discis, tibi discis.**
Translation: "Whatever you learn, you learn it for yourself."

- **Quidquid latine dictum, altum videtur.**
Translation: "Whatever is said in Latin seems profound."

- **Quieta non movere.**
Translation: "Don't move settled things" (i.e. "Don't rock the boat", "Let sleeping dogs lie.")

- **Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?**
Translation: "Who will watch the watchers themselves?" or "Who will guard the guardians themselves?" (Juvenal)

- **Quod gratis asseritur, gratis negatur.**
Translation: What is asserted gratuitously may be denied gratuitously.
Variants: What is asserted without evidence/proof/reason, may/can be dismissed/denied without evidence/proof/reason.

- **Quod nocet, saepe docet.**
Translation: "That which harms, often teaches". Meaning: Unpleasant experiences will make you wiser.
English equivalent: What does not kill you makes you stronger.

R

- **Rapiamus, amici, occasionem de die.**
English equivalent: Opportunity knocks only once.

- **Rem tene verba sequentur.**
Translation: Stick to the subject and the words will follow. (Marcus Porcius Cato)

- **Repetita iuvant.**
Translation: "Repetition is useful", or "Repeating things helps". Ghislotti, S. (2008).

- **Repetitio est mater studiorum.**
Translation: Repetition is the mother of study.

- **Roma die uno non aedificata est.**
Translation: Rome wasn't built in a day.

S

- **Salus aegroti suprema lex.**
Translation: The well-being of the patient is the most important law.

- **Salus populi suprema lex esto.**
Let the welfare of the people be the supreme law. (motto of the U.S. state of Missouri).

- **Sapere aude.**
Translation: Dare to be wise. (Horace)
(Motto of the University of New Brunswick)

- **Sapiens dominabitur astris.**
Translation: A wise (man) will rule (or possibly, be ruled by) the stars.

- **Sapiens omnia sua secum portat**

Translation: A wise man takes everything he owns with himself. (i.e. in his head, his wealth is his wisdom)

English equivalent: A good mind possess a kingdom.

- **Sapientia abscondita et thesaurus invisus quae utilitas in utrisque.**

English equivalent: You can't take it with you.

- **Sapientia est potentia.**

Translation: Wisdom is power.

- **Scientia non habet inimicum nisi ignorantem.**

Translation: Knowledge has no enemies but the ignorant.

- **Senatores boni viri, senatus autem mala bestia**

Translation: Senators are good men, however Senate is a malicious animal

- **Sermo hominum mores et celat et indicat idem.**

English equivalent: Men talk only to conceal the mind.

- **Sepem vir calcat ibi plus ubi passio exstat.**

English equivalent: Men leap over where the hedge is lower.

Note: Also known as the Law of least effort. Meaning: Always do things in a way that requires the absolutely least amount of labour.

- **Serpens, nisi serpentem comederit, non fit draco.**

Translation: A serpent, if it does not devour a serpent, does not become a dragon.

- **Si cazares, no te alabes; si no cazares, no te enfades.**

English equivalent: If fortune favours, beware of being exalted; if fortune thunders, beware of being overwhelmed.

- **Si fueris Romae, Romano vivito more, si fueris alibi, vivito sicut ibi.**

Translation: If you are in Rome, live in the Roman way, if you are somewhere else, live like there. (attributed to [Ambrose of Milan](#))
English equivalent: When in Rome, do as the Romans.

- **Si hinc esses, seires qua me vellicent.**

English equivalent: No one knows where the shoe pinches, but he who wears it. Meaning: "Nobody can fully understand another person's hardship or suffering."

- **Sic Parvis Magna.**

Translation: "Greatness from Small Beginnings."

- **Silent leges inter arma.**

Translation: "During war, laws are silent."
([Cicero](#))

- **Similia similibus.**

English equivalent: Like will to like. "Every man loves well what is like to himself."

- **Si vis pacem, para bellum.**

Translation: "If you want peace, prepare for war."

Paraphrase of **Igitur qui desiderat pacem, praeparet bellum** ([Vegetius](#), *Epitoma rei militaris*)

- **Si vis pacem, para iustitiam.**

Translation: "If you want peace, prepare justice."

- **Silent enim leges inter arma**

Translation: "Laws are silent in times of war"

- **Simia est simia, etiamsi purpura vestiatur.**

English equivalent: "A golden bit does not make the horse any better."

Meaning: An ugly thing will remain ugly even if its appearance is taken care of.

- **Stultorum est se alienis immiscere negotiis.**

English equivalent: Give neither salt nor counsel till you are asked for it.

- **Sua cuique sponsa, mihi mea; suum cuique pulchrum.**

English equivalent: Every man thinks his own geese swans.

- **Summum ius summa inuria.**

Translation: "More law, less justice." ([Cicero](#), *De officiis* I, 10, 33)

- **Sunt facta verbis difficiliora**

Translation: "Works are harder than words."
English equivalent: "Easier said than done."

- **Sunt pueri pueri pueri puerilia tractant.**

Translation: "Boys are boys and boys will act like boys."

English equivalent: Boys will be boys.

- **Sutor, ne ultra crepidam!**

Translation: "Cobbler, no further than the sandal!" I.e. don't offer your opinion on things that are outside your competence.

- **Suum cuique Pulchrum.**

Translation: To each its own is beautiful.
English equivalent: The bird loves her own nest.

T

- **Tarde venientibus ossa.**

Translation: "For those who come late, only the bones."

- **Tempora aptari decet.**

Translation: Times should be adapted to.
English equivalent: Take things as you find them...

- **Tempori parce!**

Translation: "Save time!"

- **Tempus fugit.**

Translation: "Time flees." (i.e., "time flies").

Originally as **Sed fugit interea, fugit**

irreparabile tempus - translation:

"Meanwhile the irreplaceable time flees"

(Virgil)

English equivalent: Time and tide waits for none.

- **Tempus fugit, aeternitas manet.**

Translation: "Time flees, eternity dwells."

- **Tempus fugit, amor manet.**

Translation: "Time flees, love stays"

- **Timendi causa est nescire.**

Translation: "The cause of fear is ignorance."
(Seneca).

- **Tres faciunt collegium.**

Translation: "Three makes a company."

- **Tolle, lege; Tolle, lege!**

Translation: "Take up and read; take up and read!" (Augustinus)

- **Tunc tua res agitur, paries cum proximus ardet.**

Translation: "It also concerns you when the nearest wall is burning."

U

- **Ut salutas (saltus), ita salutaris oder Malo arboris nodo malus clavus and cuneus infigendus est.**

English equivalent: What goes around comes around.

Meaning: Good acts quite often reward themselves. Conversely, bad acts quite often punish themselves.

- **Ubi bene, ibi patria.**

Translation: "Where one feels good, there is one's country."

- **Ubi concordia, ibi victoria.**

Translation: "Where there is harmony, there is victory."

- **Ubi dubium, ibi libertas.**

Translation: "Where there is doubt, there is freedom." Legal meaning: when in doubt the prisoner has to be freed.

- **Ubi fumus, ibi ignis.**

Translation: "Where there's smoke, there's fire."

Meaning: Where there are the signs of something, something is there.

- **Ulula cum lupis, cum quibus esse cupis.**

Translation: "Who keeps company with wolves, will learn to howl."

Meaning: You will become like the people you surround yourself with.

- **Uni navi ne committas omnia.**

Translation: Do not commit all to one boat.

English equivalent: Don't put all your eggs in the same basket.

- **Una hirundo non facit ver.**

Translation: "One swallow doesn't make spring" (Aristotle (384 BCE – 322 BCE): "One swallow does not a summer make")

Meaning: A solitary event is no indication that a major change is taking place.

- **Unum castigabis, centum emendabis.**

Translation: For one reprimand, a hundred corrections."

- **Usus magister est optimus.**

Translation: "Experience is the best teacher." (i.e., "Practice makes perfect.")

- **Ut ameris, amabilis esto.**

Translation: "Be amiable, then you'll be loved."

- **Ut desint vires, tamen est laudanda voluntas**

Translation: "Even if the powers are missing, the will deserves praise" (Ovid)

- **Ut sementem feceris, ita metes.**

Translation: "You'll reap what you sow." (Cicero, "De oratore"); The Bible Job 4:8; Galatians 6:7.

English equivalent: What you reap is what you sow.

- **Ut sis nocte levis, sit cena brevis!**

Translation: "That your sleeping hour be peaceful, let your dining hour be brief!" (Sis is one hour before sunset.) (modern: Sleep hard, Sleep fast, Sleep well)

- **Uxor formosa et vinum sunt dulcia venena.**

Translation: "Beautiful women and wine are sweet venom."

V

• **Varitatio delectat**

English equivalent: Variety is the spice of life.

• **Vasa vana plurimum sonant**

English equivalent: It is not the hen that cackles the most that lay the most eggs.

• **Ventis secundis, tene cursum.**

English equivalent: Go with the flow.

• **Verba docent, exempla trahunt.**

Translation: Words instruct, illustrations lead.

• **Verba volant, scripta manent.**

English equivalent: Paper is forbearing.

• **Verit eo caudam, qua decidit arbore, malum.**

English equivalent: The apple does not fall far from the tree.

"Children observe daily and — in their behaviour — often follow the example of their parents."

• **Veritas odium paret**

Translation: Truth creates hatred. (Terence, Andria 68)

• **Veritas vos liberabit**

Translation: The truth will set you free.
From the Gospel of John, 8:32

• **Veritatem dies aperit.**

Translation: Time discloses the truth.

• **Vincit omnia veritas.**

Translation: Truth conquers all.

• **Vincit qui patitur** motto Berea College, Berea, KY

English equivalent: Persevere and never fear.

• **Vipera in veprecula est.**

English equivalent: Look before you leap, for snakes among sweet flowers do creep.

• **Vir fugiens et denuo pugnabit.**

English equivalent: He who fights and runs away may live to fight another day.

• **Viveri bis, vitā posse priori frui.**

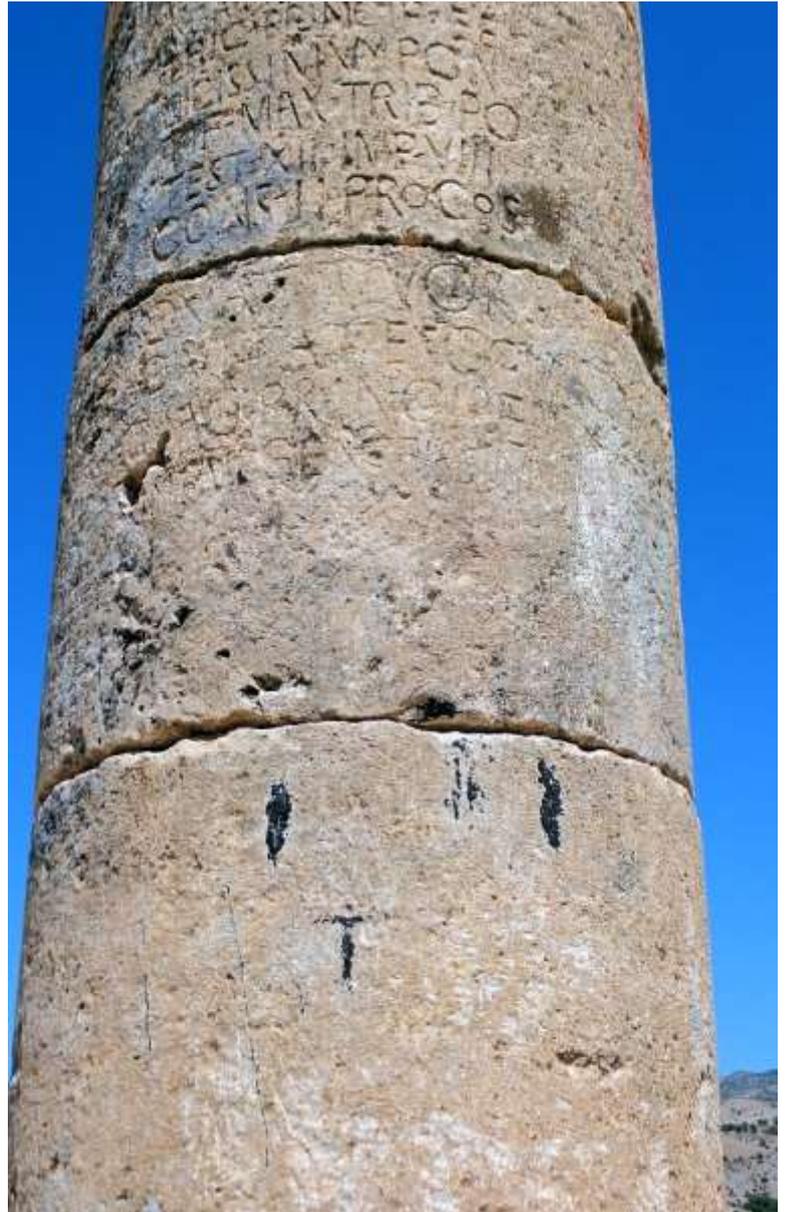
Translation: It is to live twice to be able to enjoy the retrospect of your past life.

• **Vivit post funera virtus.**

Translation: Virtue survives the grave.

• **Vulpes pilum mutat, non mores!**

English equivalent A leopard won't change its spots.



Further Information

There is an article on Wikipedia about Latin phrases (full) at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Latin_phrases_\(full\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Latin_phrases_(full))

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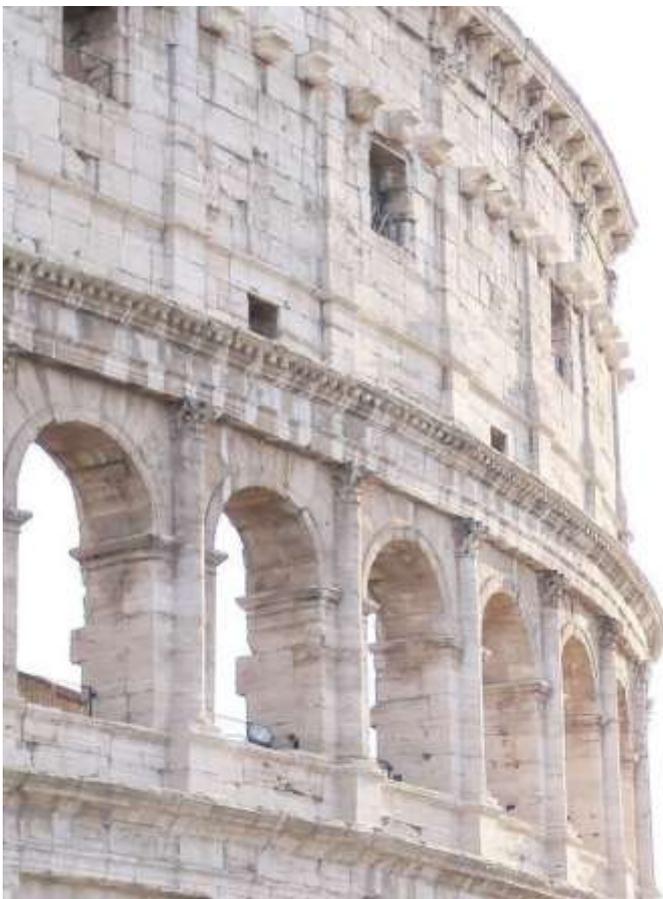
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