

Social Studies: Grades 5-6

# Introduction to Learning Classical Latin

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## **Day 1**

### **Origin of Classical Latin**

Latin was the written and spoken language used during the Roman Empire and Roman Republic, or what we generally call Ancient Rome.

### **Latin is a Dead Language, Maybe**

Classical Latin is considered to be a dead language. This means no one is born into a country or community where Latin is spoken.

### **Why Learn Latin?**

Many of the words we use today come from Latin. In fact, almost half the words we use in the English language come from Latin. This means, you are going to recognize many of the Latin words in these lessons.

Over time, Latin developed into Italian, Spanish, and French. This means that if you learn Latin, you will have an easier time learning and understanding these other languages.

## **What You Will Learn**

Introduction to Learning Classical Latin will introduce you to Latin words and their meanings. You will be watching videos and you will learn the basics of how to speak and recognize Latin words.

## **Let's Begin**

For Day 1, let's begin with this video on [3 Reasons to Study Latin \(for Normal People, Not Language Geeks\)](#).

<https://youtu.be/DmBahblkkB4>

## Day 2

### Veni, Vidi, Vici

Today we are going to take a look at the history of Julius Caesar's famous quote that means "I came, I saw, I conquered."

In Ecclesiastical Latin (the Latin used by the Christian church), veni, vidi, vici is pronounced:

vennee, veedee, veechee

However, in Classical Latin, the correct pronunciation is believed to be:

wennee, weedee, weekee

Julius Caesar would have said his famous words using the W sound and not the English V sound.

So while both pronunciations are correct, only wennee, weedee, weekee would have been spoken in Ancient Rome.

Watch this short video on [what Latin actually sounded like](#).

[https://youtube.com/shorts/Hgm7VGqgmJ0?  
feature=share](https://youtube.com/shorts/Hgm7VGqgmJ0?feature=share)

For Day 2, we are also going to watch a video, [Julius Caesar - Greatest Conqueror Ever?](#)

<https://youtu.be/Z1NimVSJ8XI>

Take note of which pronunciation is used at the end of the video.

## Day 3

### Months of the Year

Because Julius Caesar introduced a new calendar system to Rome, today we are going to take a look at the months and how they are pronounced in Latin.

But first, watch this video on [how the months got their names](#).

<https://youtu.be/ZA6l4if8Jgl>

March was the first month of the year in the Roman calendar.

## **12 Months of the Year in English and Latin**

March - Martius

April - Aprilis

May - Maius

June - Iunius

July - Iulius

August - Augustus

September - September

October - October

November - November

December - December

January - Ianuarius

February - Februarius

As you can see, the names of Latin months are very similar to the English spellings of the months.

## **Pronounced**

Visit this website and listen to how the months were pronounced in Latin.

### Months of the Year in Latin

<https://polyglotclub.com/wiki/Language/Latin/Vocabulary/Months-of-the-Year>

## **Roman Origin of Months**

To learn more about the months of the year and their Roman origin, watch:

### Why is the tenth month named after eight?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjNOOkGPUZc>



## Day 4

### Counting

Now that we have been introduced to the months of the year, it only makes sense that we take a quick look at counting in Latin from one to ten.

But first, let's begin with this fun Latin counting song!

<https://youtu.be/-yipQwk00jg>

## **1 to 10 in English and Latin**

one - unus

two - duo

three - tres

four - quattuor

five - quinque

six - sex

seven - septem

eight - octo

nine - novem

ten - decem

Visit this page to learn [how to pronounce numbers one to ten in Latin](#).

<https://polyglotclub.com/wiki/Language/Latin/Vocabulary/Count-from-1-to-10>

## **Roman Numerals**

Now that you know how to count from one to ten in Latin, let's explore Roman numerals.

[Roman numerals video](#).

<https://youtu.be/vAmCV IEqsc>

Next, print and complete one of the Roman numeral worksheets on this website:

## **Roman Numerals Worksheet**

<https://www.math-salamanders.com/roman-numerals-worksheet.html>

## Day 5

### Days of the Week

Watch:

[Why are there 7 days in a week?](https://youtu.be/vpRd52dXHIQ)

<https://youtu.be/vpRd52dXHIQ>

The names of the days of the week that are used today come from both the Latin and Norse religions.

For example, Saturday is named after the Roman god Saturn and Thursday is named after the Norse god Thor.

## **Names of the Week in Latin**

Sunday - Dies Solis

Monday - Dies Lunae

Tuesday - Dies Martis

Wednesday - Dies Mercurii

Thursday - Dies Lovis

Friday - Dies Veneris

Saturday - Dies Saturni

## **How to Pronounce**

To learn how to pronounce the days of the week, visit [The 7 Days of the Week in Latin](https://polyglotclub.com/wiki/Language/Latin/Vocabulary/Days-of-the-Week).

<https://polyglotclub.com/wiki/Language/Latin/Vocabulary/Days-of-the-Week>

## **Day 6**

### **Letters of the Alphabet**

There are only 23 letters in the Classical Latin alphabet, and they are very easy to learn.

Watch the following video and pay attention to how C is pronounced because we are going to be covering how to pronounce Caesar in Latin for the next lesson.

[Learn Latin Episode II: Alphabet and Pronunciation](https://youtu.be/B-UQ7VY-bRM)

<https://youtu.be/B-UQ7VY-bRM>

## Day 7

### Roman Names

In English, we pronounce Caesar like see-zar. But, as we have seen in previous videos, we are not using the correct Latin pronunciation.

### Letters C and K

The letter C was pronounced like a K, and the letter K came from the Greek language.

Watch

[Why do so few words begin with a K in Latin](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gf5ehDZtEIY)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gf5ehDZtEIY>

to learn more.

### How Romans Were Named

Today, let's explore how ancient Romans were named, their similarities with our English naming system, and their differences.

Watch [Roman Names](#).



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zrfAzTtGdc>

## Day 8

### Sentence Construction

The way ancient Romans constructed their sentences is different than how we put our sentences together in English.

Watch

[Basic Latin Word Order](#)

[https://youtu.be/J\\_BYm26BdxA](https://youtu.be/J_BYm26BdxA)

to learn the rules of sentence structure in Classical Latin.

## Day 9

### Pluck the Day!

You may have heard the Latin phrase “Carpe diem.” For many, the phrase means “Seize the day,” but it can also be translated as “Pluck the day.”

Learn how to pronounce Carpe diem.

<https://youtu.be/TstJqngNRTk>

Today, instead of watching an educational video, you are going to watch this famous Carpe diem scene from the movie Dead Poets Society.

Carpe diem!

<https://youtu.be/vi0Lbjs5ECI>

## **Day 10**

### **Places and How to Look Up Latin Pronunciations**

Today you are going to learn the words of places you might find in a city or town.

You will also learn how to look up Latin pronunciations in Google.

### **Google Translate Steps**

1. First, go to the Google Translate website.

<https://translate.google.com/?hl=en&tab=TT>

2. On the left-hand, Detect Language, click English.

3. On the right-hand side, Translation, click the downward arrow and select Latin.

4. Type the word castle in Detect Language.

5. Castrum will appear in the Latin box.

6. Click the speaker icon and it will pronounce the Latin word for castle.

Use Google translate to learn how to pronounce the Latin words below.

## **English to Latin: Places**

1. Academy - Academia
2. Castle - Castrum
3. Gate - Porta
4. Palace - Palatium
5. Prison - Carcer
6. School - Schola
7. Temple - Templum
8. Theater - Theatrum

The Latin words you just learned are very similar to our English words. They also help us to better understand the English language as well as popular culture.

You might recognize Academia from the anime series My Hero Academia. In the series, young heroes go to an academy (school) for hero training.

A gate, in Latin, is Porta. The word portal comes from the Latin word for gate and means “an opening.” In a science fiction movie, a scientist might open a portal to another world.

Carcer, prison, can be found in the word “incarcerate.” Incarcerate means to be put in prison.

Schola is school where scholars go to be educated. The Latin word for education is educatione.

So, as you can see, the Latin language is still very much alive and a part of our everyday lives.

## Day 11

### **I think, therefore I am.**

Today we are going to take a step away from Ancient Rome and learn about the French philosopher René Descartes whose famous Latin quote is:

Cogito, ergo sum.  
I think, therefore I am.

Watch "I think, therefore I am."

<https://youtu.be/0A6UKoMcE10>

How does a French philosopher from the 1600s affect popular culture today?

Listen to this music video by Billie Eilish.

### **Therefore I Am**

<https://youtu.be/RUQl6YcMalg>

Do you see how the past continues to influence us in unexpected ways?

## Day 12

### Latin Adjectives for Colors

As you watch The Colors of Latin, pay attention to the Latin words. See if you can think of English words based off of the Latin words.

<https://youtu.be/-SAZ1ft06rw>



## Day 13

### Latin Names of Animals

Today you are going to explore the names of animals on Wikiversity.

Read the names out in Latin using the audio feature.

When you are finished, scroll down to New Sentences. You should be able to read some of these Latin sentences on your own.

Use Google Translate if you need any help.

<https://translate.google.com/?hl=en&tab=TT>

Finally, listen to the classic rock song [A Horse With No Name](#) sung in Latin.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PdfrfPC5NY>

## Day 14

### Family

Many of the Latin words for family members are going to sound very familiar to you.

Family is Latin is familia.

Brother is frāter and can be seen in modern words such as fraternity (brotherhood).

Mother is mātēr, and can be seen in words such as maternity, matriarch, and maternal.

Father is pater. In English, we have paternity, patriarch, and paternal.

Visit the Wikiversity page on [Latin/Family](https://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Latin/Family) and review the Latin words for family members.

[https://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Latin/Family Lesson 1](https://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Latin/Family_Lesson_1)

When you are done, scroll down on the Wikiversity page and begin practicing New Sentences.

Read the sentences out as best as you can. Use Google Translate as needed.

<https://translate.google.com/?hl=en&tab=TT>

## **Rapping in Latin**

And now, let's listen to [Rapping in Latin](#).

[https://youtu.be/v2TZew7J\\_80](https://youtu.be/v2TZew7J_80)

## Day 15

### Latin Phrases

Today is the last day for Introduction to Learning Classical Latin, and we are going to explore some awesome latin phrases.

I have shown you how to look up Latin pronunciations on Google Translate, but today we are going to use Youtube to translate these popular sayings.

First, visit Mondly's page on [50 Cool Latin Phrases to Impress Your Friends](https://www.mondly.com/blog/2021/07/29/cool-latin-phrases/).

<https://www.mondly.com/blog/2021/07/29/cool-latin-phrases/>

You may already know how to pronounce some of these sayings.

However, if you aren't sure how to say a phrase, simply type it and the word pronounce into Youtube.

For example, to learn how to say *Alea iacta est*, type

**pronounce *Alea iacta est***

into Youtube's search bar.

The search will bring up this video on pronouncing this phrase:

How to Pronounce Alea lacta Est

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYeeFIE90YM>

When you are finished, watch:

The Latin Language: Not as Dead as You Think.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xf5Wp\\_zuLGo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xf5Wp_zuLGo)