

LATIN

Everywhere, Everyday

A Latin Phrase Workbook

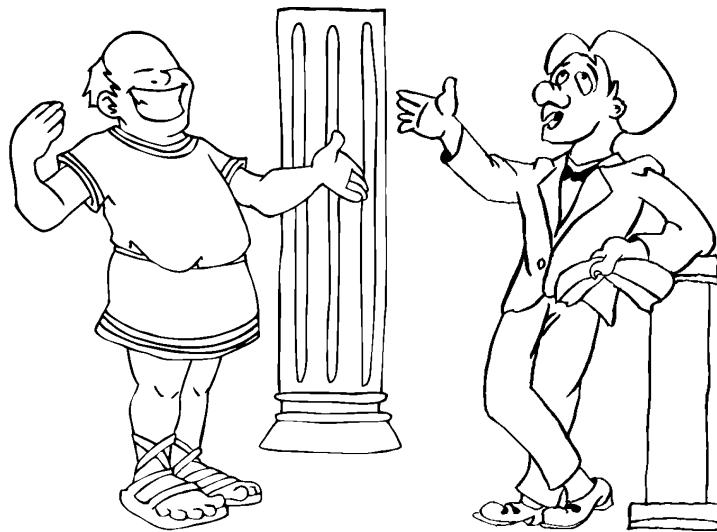


Elizabeth Heimbach

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Editor
LeaAnn A. Osburn

Typography and Cover Design
Adam Phillip Velez

**Latin Everywhere, Everyday:
A Latin Phrase Workbook**

Elizabeth Heimbach

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“Lord Peter took a nap,” she said. “Harriet watched him sleep, and that’s when she knew she was in love with him.”

She sat up again. “Of course I knew it from the second page of *Strong Poison*, but it took two more books for Harriet to figure it out. She kept telling herself it was all just detecting and deciphering codes and solving mysteries together, but I knew she was in love with him. He proposed in Latin. Under a bridge. After they solved the mystery. You can’t propose till you have solved the mystery. That’s a law in detective novels.

She sighed. “It’s too bad. ‘*Placetne, magistra?*’ he said when he proposed, and then she said, ‘*Placet!*’ That’s a fancy Oxford don way of saying yes. I had to look it up. I hate it when people use Latin and don’t tell you what they mean...”

Connie Willis, *To Say Nothing of the Dog*

DEDICATION

Ego ago maximas gratias familiae meae carissimae editorique optimae.

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INTRODUCTION

Sometimes people say that Latin is a dead language, but Latin is not dead; it is everywhere! When you get an invitation to a party that begins at 8 P.M., you know the event will be in the evening because P.M. stands for the Latin words *post meridiem*, which mean “after noon.” When you add a message to a letter or an e-mail, you write P.S., the abbreviation for the Latin words *post scriptum*, which mean “after the writing.” When you go into a drugstore and see a sign with the letters Rx, you are looking at an abbreviation for the Latin word *recipe*, which means “take.” When you study the Antebellum Period in American history, you are learning about the years before the Civil War because *ante* in Latin means “before” and *bellum* means “war.” There are many, many Latin abbreviations, words and phrases in English today because Latin was a language understood and shared by all educated people in western Europe for hundreds of years. This means that many scientific terms like *homo sapiens* and *in vitro* are Latin. Latin appears in many legal phrases too, like *subpoena* and *habeas corpus*.

This workbook will help you learn some of the most important Latin phrases and abbreviations you are likely to meet. There are three main parts to the workbook, each with its own review chapter: one with *sententiae* or phrases, one with mottoes, and one with abbreviations. In the first section, you will find 180 Latin phrases, one for each day of the school year. There are five phrases on each page so that you can see a whole week's work at once, or look ahead if you wish. There are exercises to help you learn each group of phrases. The second section of the workbook contains Latin mottoes of states, schools, colleges, families, and organizations. These are organized in such a way that you can cover one page of mottoes each week for eighteen weeks. Each page of mottoes is followed by exercises. In all three sections of the workbook you will find lots of English words with Latin roots. In the third section of the workbook you will find 29 Latin abbreviations. This section is actually a review because you will recognize all of the abbreviations from the phrases you learned in the first section.

The phrase section of the workbook can be completed easily in one school year. The abbreviations plus the mottoes are intended to take half a year. Of course, you may want to skip around or to go slower or faster. There are games and project suggestions to help you learn, but you will also need to make flashcards or type each phrase, abbreviation or motto as you learn it. After all, *labor omnia vincit!*

You may decide to keep a scrapbook or a bulletin board of all the Latin phrases you find in newspapers, magazines, advertisements, and books. Once you begin to recognize the Latin phrases and abbreviations, you will be amazed at how often you see them, and you will feel really smart! So, *tempus fugit, carpe diem*, but *festina lente*, and most of all, have fun!

Elizabeth Heimbach
Madeira, 2004



Fig. 1
Festina lente.

CHAPTER ONE

Sententiae Latinae



Fig. 2
In medias res.

1. **ab ovo usque ad mala**

Literal translation: from egg(s) to apples

More common meaning: from beginning to end

In an English sentence: The new software manual gives directions for website design *ab ovo usque ad mala*.

This phrase makes sense if you know a little bit about ancient dining customs. Most Romans ate only a snack for breakfast and lunch. Dinner, however, was more elaborate. Hard-boiled eggs (*ova*) were sometimes served as appetizers, and dessert often included fruit like apples (*mala*). An English phrase, “from soup to nuts,” means the same thing. The Latin word *ovum* is an English word itself and gives us the words “oval” and “ovary.” You may sometimes see just the words *ab ovo* instead of the whole phrase. *Ab ovo* means “from the egg, from the beginning.”

2. **ab initio (ab init.)**

Literal translation: from the beginning

In an English sentence: The teacher had to explain the lesson *ab initio* to the students who were tardy.

Initium means “beginning” in Latin. This is easy to learn if you remember that your initial **begins** your name and that an initiation is a ceremony for people who are **beginning** to participate in an activity.

3. **ad hoc**

Literal translation: to this

More common meaning: for this purpose

In an English sentence: The *ad hoc* committee on fund raising met last week.

When a committee is organized to deal with a specific issue, it is called an *ad hoc* committee. It works only on the one issue it was formed to consider. It is not a standing committee, and it will disband after its work is done.

4. **ad hominem**

Literal translation: to the man

More common meaning: personal

In an English sentence: The candidates made *ad hominem* remarks against one another instead of discussing the important issues of the campaign.

Today we expect political candidates to avoid criticizing the private lives of their rivals, but in ancient Rome, speakers like Cicero often made vicious personal attacks on their enemies.

5. **ad infinitum (ad inf.)**

Literal translation: to the infinite

More common meaning: endlessly

In an English sentence: The newspaper seemed to cover the scandal *ad infinitum*.

The Latin word *finis* means “end,” and the prefix *in* means “without.” Thus *in + finis* means “without an end” or “endless.” The English word “infinite” means exactly the same thing.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. ab ovo usque ad mala _____
2. ab ovo _____
3. ab initio _____
4. ad hoc _____
5. ad hominem _____
6. ad infinitum _____

II. Fill in the blank with the Latin expression that is translated in the parentheses:

1. Our town has formed an _____ (**for this purpose**) committee to look into the issue of recycling.
2. The group will consider the present program _____ (**from the beginning**).
3. Then, the committee will redesign the program _____ (**from beginning to end**).
4. One of the members of the new committee has a reputation for talking _____ (**endlessly**), but no one will make an _____ (**personal**) attack on him.

6. **ad libitum (ad lib.)**

Literal translation: at pleasure

More common meaning: without preparation

In an English sentence: The actor was forced to *ad lib.* when he forgot his lines.

If actors are not speaking from a script, they are *ad-libbing*. Some people call this “improv.” Have you ever seen joke books called “Mad Libs”? The “lib” part of the title comes from this expression.

7. **ad nauseam**

Literal translation: to sea sickness

More common meaning: to the point of disgust

In an English sentence: The TV network aired advertisements for the new show *ad nauseam*.

When you are really fed up with hearing something repeated, you have heard it *ad nauseam*, and you are sick of it!

8. **alibi**

Literal translation: elsewhere

More common meaning: defense of being elsewhere when a crime was committed

In an English sentence: The jury listened to the defendant's *alibi*: she said that she was at home watching television at the time the robbery of the store took place.

To a Roman the word *alibi* was an adverb formed from “*al*,” short for *alius* meaning “other” and *ibi* meaning “there, in that place.” Today a person accused of a crime has a strong defense if he has an *alibi* that confirms that he was in another place at the time the crime was committed.

9. **alma mater**

Literal translation: nourishing mother

More common meaning: school or college attended or school song

In an English sentence: The recent graduates returned to visit their *alma mater*.

Alo is a Latin verb that means “feed” or “nourish,” and *Alma Mater* is a title the Romans gave to Ceres, the goddess of bountiful harvests. Today we use the phrase *alma mater* to describe a school or college, which can nurture its students and provide them with food for thought.

10. **alumnus, alumna**

Literal translation: foster child

More common meaning: graduate of a school or college

In an English sentence: The *alumni* of the college gave money for a new library.

The Latin word for a boy cared for by an *alma mater* is *alumnus*; for a girl the Latin word is *alumna*. Similarly, in English, a boy or man who graduates from a school or college is an *alumnus* (plural: *alumni*) while a girl or woman graduate is an *alumna* (plural: *alumnae*).

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. ad libitum (ad lib.) _____
2. ad nauseam _____
3. alibi _____
4. alma mater _____
5. alumnus, alumna _____

II. Review all the Latin expressions you have learned. Then match each expression with its English meaning:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. ____ ab ovo usque ad mala | A. elsewhere |
| 2. ____ alibi | B. without preparation |
| 3. ____ ad hoc | C. from the beginning |
| 4. ____ ad hominem | D. for this purpose |
| 5. ____ ad infinitum | E. graduate of a school |
| 6. ____ alumnus, alumna | F. school song |
| 7. ____ ad lib. | G. endlessly |
| 8. ____ alma mater | H. personal |
| 9. ____ ad nauseam | I. to the point of disgust |
| 10. ____ ab initio | J. from beginning to end |

11. **alter ego**

Literal translation: another self

More common meaning: a perfect substitute or deputy

In an English sentence: The chief of staff served as the president's *alter ego*.

Your *alter ego* shares your thoughts completely. An *alter ego* can also be one of the two sides of the same person's personality, as Dr. Jeckyll was the *alter ego* of Mr. Hyde. *Alter* in Latin means "the other" when there are only two choices. *Ego* is the Latin pronoun that means "I."

12. **amicus curiae**

Literal translation: friend of the court

More common meaning: a person who advises the court on a matter before it

In an English sentence: The judge read the materials contained in the *amicus curiae* brief with great care.

Someone who is not involved in a lawsuit may submit background information to a judge in a document called an *amicus curiae* brief. *Amicus* is the Latin word for "friend," and "amicable" in English means "friendly."

13. **annuit coeptis**

Literal translation: He (God) has nodded at our undertakings

More common meaning: He (God) has favored (our) undertakings

In an English sentence: Can you find the words *annuit coeptis* on a dollar bill?

This phrase is printed on the back of the U.S. dollar bill above the pyramid. It comes from Book IX of Vergil's great Roman epic, the *Aeneid*.

14. **anno Domini (A.D.)**

Literal translation: In the Year of the Lord

More common meaning: Common Era

In an English sentence: Mt. Vesuvius erupted in *A.D.* 79.

Most historians today use the expression Common Era (CE) to refer to dates after the birth of Christ, but in older books you will find the Latin phrase *anno Domini* (*A.D.*). Some people think that *A.D.* stands for After Death, but you can see that *anno*, which comes from the Latin word *annus* meaning "year," is related to the English word "annual." *Dominus* is the Latin word for "lord" or "master."

15. **ante bellum**

Literal translation: before the war

More common meaning: before the American Civil War

In an English sentence: The *antebellum* house required extensive renovation.

This phrase is sometimes written in English as a single word, "antebellum." It refers to the period in American history before the Civil War. *Ante* means "before" in Latin, and that makes sense when you remember that poker players ante up **before** they begin to play. *Bellum*, the Latin word for "war," gives us the English word "belligerent" that means "aggressive."

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. alter ego _____
2. amicus curiae _____
3. annuit coeptis _____
4. anno Domini (A.D.) _____
5. ante bellum _____

II. Answer briefly:

1. During what period of American history did Eli Whitney invent the cotton gin?

2. Who was Dr. Jeckyll's *alter ego*?

3. What is another way to write the date 79 CE?

4. Why would someone submit an *amicus curiae* brief to a court?

5. Where would you find the words *annuit coeptis* on the dollar bill? What other Latin phrases can you find?

III. Write English sentences to show that you know the meaning of “amicable” and “belligerent.”

16. **ante meridiem (A.M.)**

Literal translation: before noon

More common meaning: in the morning

In an English sentence: The meeting will begin at 10 *A.M.*

A.M. is a familiar abbreviation. It is easy to remember that *ante* means “before” if you think of “antebellum.” *Meridiem* is the Latin word for “noon” so you would never invite someone to dinner at 6:00 *A.M.*!

17. **arma virumque cano**

Literal translation: arms and the man I sing

More common meaning: I tell of wars and a hero

In an English sentence: When the novelist began to write about the Vietnam War, she recalled Vergil’s words, “*arma virumque cano.*”

The opening words of the great Roman epic poem, the *Aeneid*, are “*Arma virumque cano.*” *Arma* is a reference to the fighting that Aeneas, the hero of the *Aeneid*, endures, and *virum* or “man” refers to Aeneas himself. We derive the English word “virile” meaning “manly” from this Latin word. Notice that the syllable *-que* is added to *virum* to mean “and.”

18. **ars gratia artis**

Literal translation: art for the sake of art

In an English sentence: The starving artist often murmured, “*ars gratia artis.*”

Ars gratia artis is the motto of MGM studios. You can see the phrase on a banner under the MGM lion on the company logo. It means creating something beautiful for its own sake, not for the sake of profit.

19. **ars longa, vita brevis**

Literal translation: art (is) long, life (is) short.

In an English sentence: The writer reminded herself, *ars longa, vita brevis.*

This expression makes sense when you think how works of art may live on long after their creators are dead. *Vita*, which means “life” in Latin, gives us the English words “vital” and “vitamin.” *Brevis* gives us “abbreviate.”

20. **ave atque vale**

Literal translation: hail and farewell

More common meaning: hello and good-bye

In an English sentence: My friend called to say, “*Ave atque vale,*” before he left on a trip.

The Roman poet Catullus used these words in a poem addressed to his dead brother. Today a **valedictorian** gives a farewell speech to say “*ave atque vale*” at a graduation ceremony.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. ante meridiem (A.M.) _____
2. arma virumque cano _____
3. ars gratia artis _____
4. ars longa, vita brevis _____
5. ave atque vale _____

II. How many Latin words do you remember? Write the English meaning of these words.

1. ante _____
2. vita _____
3. brevis _____
4. longa _____
5. virum _____

III. Give the meaning of each English word:

1. virile _____
2. vital _____
3. abbreviate _____
4. valedictorian _____
5. vitamin _____

21. **bona fide**

Literal translation: in good faith

More common meaning: genuine

In an English sentence: The store gave a discount to *bona fide* students.

Like *antebellum*, these two Latin words are sometimes written as a single English word: “bonafide.” A bonafide price reduction is a real reduction, not just a fiction to attract buyers. “Bonafides” can also be a plural noun meaning “credentials.” For example, a diplomat might present his bonafides to a foreign government.

22. **calvo turpius est nihil comato**

Literal translation: nothing (is) uglier than a bald (man) with hair.

In an English sentence: “*Calvo turpius est nihil comato*,” muttered the salesman as he tried to interest a balding customer in a new hat.

This is not a phrase that you will see very often, but it is an easy one to understand: even today people make fun of a man with a comb-over!

23. **carpe diem**

Literal translation: seize the day

More common meaning: enjoy today

In an English sentence: The teacher in the movie *Dead Poets Society* urged his students to make the most of the moment. “*Carpe diem!*” he cried.

The Roman poet Horace used this phrase in a poem in which he warned against putting off too many things to the future. Horace knew that it is important to enjoy the present and to make good use of each day.

24. **casus belli**

Literal translation: cause of war

In an English sentence: The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was a *casus belli*.

Remember the word *bellum* from the phrase *ante bellum*? Here is another form of the word. The English word “bellicose” meaning “warlike” is a derivative of *bellum*.

25. **cave canem**

Literal translation: beware of the dog

In an English sentence: When the puppy chewed her new slippers, the dog owner sighed and said, “*Cave canem.*”

A modern dog owner posts a sign on his gate with the words “Beware of the dog;” a Roman dog owner would spell out *cave canem* on a mosaic in his front hall. “Canine” in English comes from *canis*, the Latin word for “dog,” and the Canary Islands were named for the dogs that were found there, not for canary birds.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. bona fide _____
2. calvo turpius est nihil comato _____
3. carpe diem _____
4. casus belli _____
5. cave canem _____

II. Unscramble these Latin words:

1. perac mied = _____
2. abno edif = _____
3. menac acev = _____
4. libel ssuac = _____

III. Draw a sketch of someone about whom you might say, "*Calvo turpius est nihil comato!*"

26. **caveat emptor**

Literal translation: let the buyer beware

In an English sentence: The family remembered the phrase *caveat emptor*, and arranged for an inspection of the house they hoped to buy before they actually made an offer on the property.

This phrase warns people to be careful when they hear about a deal that sounds too good to be true. The word *caveat* can be used by itself in English to mean a warning. *Emptor* is related to the English word “emporium” which means store.

27. **circa (ca., c.)**

Literal translation: around, approximately

In an English sentence: The poet Catullus was born *circa* 84 BCE.

You will see the abbreviation *ca.* or *c.* in history books when the exact date of an event is unknown.

28. **cogito ergo sum**

Literal translation: I think, therefore I am

In an English sentence: Descartes, a seventeenth century French philosopher, used the phrase *cogito ergo sum* when he was seeking proof of his own existence.

Notice that in Latin the pronoun “I” is understood with the verb *sum*. Descartes was a mathematician as well as a philosopher. You can thank Descartes for much of what you learn today in algebra. You might be interested to know that Descartes was frail as a youth and spent much of each day resting in bed.

29. **confer (cf.)**

Literal translation: compare

In an English sentence: In my dictionary, the definition of the word “benevolent” is followed by the abbreviation *cf.* and the word “malevolent.” *Cf.* tells me that I should look up “malevolent” and compare the definitions of the two words.

The abbreviation *cf.* directs you to other entries in a dictionary. It is similar to the expression *quod vide* or *vide* meaning “which see” or “see.”

30. **cornucopia**

Literal translation: horn of plenty

In an English sentence: Have you ever seen a *cornucopia* as a Thanksgiving decoration?

Ceres, the Roman goddess of agriculture, is sometimes shown holding a horn shaped basket filled with vegetables, fruit, and wheat. This symbol of abundance is called a *cornucopia*. It is easy to remember that the Latin word for “horn” is *cornu* if you think of the English word “unicorn.” *Copia*, the Latin word for “plenty,” is the root of “copious” meaning “plentiful” in English.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. caveat emptor _____
2. circa (ca., c.) _____
3. cogito ergo sum _____
4. confer (cf.) _____
5. cornucopia _____

II. How many abbreviations do you remember? Give the Latin words and the English meaning for each:

	Latin Words	English Meaning
1.	ad lib. _____	_____
2.	A.D. _____	_____
3.	A.M. _____	_____
4.	ca., c. _____	_____
5.	cf. _____	_____

III. What does each of these English words mean?

1. emporium _____
2. caveat _____

31. **corpus delicti**

Literal translation: the body of an offense

More common meaning: the basic element of a crime

In an English sentence: The victim's death was the *corpus delicti* for the charge of murder.

The English word “corpse” is derived from the Latin word *corpus*, meaning “body,” but the *corpus delicti* is not always a corpse: *corpus* in this expression simply means any evidence that a crime has been committed.

32. **credo**

Literal translation: I believe

More common meaning: a set of firm beliefs

In an English sentence: My personal *credo* is, “Honesty is the best policy.”

Credo is a verb in Latin that means “I believe.” Notice that the pronoun “I” is understood. The Christian creed begins with this word; thus it has come to mean a person's whole system of belief.

33. **cui bono**

Literal translation: to whom for a good

More common meaning: to whose advantage, for whose benefit

In an English sentence: *Cui bono* is a question detectives ask when a murder has been committed.

Do you remember the expression *bona fide*? *Bona* meant “good,” and here *bono* is another form of the same word.

34. **cum grano salis**

Literal translation: with a grain of salt

More common meaning: with a little disbelief, not too seriously

In an English sentence: I took my friend's boasting *cum grano salis*.

You treat something *cum grano salis* when it sounds a little too good to be true. Similarly, when you take something lightly instead of seriously, you are taking it *cum grano salis*.

35. **cum laude**

Literal translation: with praise, with honor

In an English sentence: Everyone clapped for the students who graduated *cum laude*.

This Latin phrase appears on diplomas of outstanding students who have maintained a certain grade point average. The English word “laud,” meaning “praise,” comes from this Latin root, as does “laudatory,” meaning “praiseworthy,” and “laudable,” meaning “commendable.”

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. corpus delicti _____
2. credo _____
3. cui bono _____
4. cum grano salis _____
5. cum laude _____

II. Review expressions 25–35. Then match each expression with its English meaning:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. ____ cave canem | A. compare |
| 2. ____ caveat emptor | B. let the buyer beware |
| 3. ____ circa (ca., c.) | C. beware of the dog |
| 4. ____ cogito ergo sum | D. approximately |
| 5. ____ confer (cf.) | E. set of beliefs |
| 6. ____ corpus delicti | F. with praise, honor |
| 7. ____ credo | G. with a little disbelief |
| 8. ____ cui bono | H. body of an offense |
| 9. ____ cum grano salis | I. to whose advantage |
| 10. ____ cum laude | J. I think, therefore I am |

36. **curriculum vitae (C.V.)**

Literal translation: lap of life

More common meaning: resume, summary of one's career

In an English sentence: Each job applicant must submit a *curriculum vitae*.

A horse race in ancient Rome had seven laps. Each lap was called a *curriculum*. We use the word "curriculum" in English to mean the material students learn in school, but your *curriculum vitae* summarizes both your educational background and your work experience.

37. **de jure**

Literal translation: from law

More common meaning: by law

In an English sentence: Property deeds often used to contain *de jure* restrictions.

If you have read about the Civil Rights movement in the United States, you know that housing patterns all over the country were determined *de jure* until the nineteen sixties. This meant that laws prohibited minorities from buying real estate in many areas. Latin students know that the Latin alphabet did not contain the letter *j* so Romans would have written this phrase *de iure*, not *de jure*.

38. **de facto**

Literal translation: from the fact

More common meaning: in fact, in reality

In an English sentence: Segregation still exists *de facto* in housing in some places.

De facto is the opposite of *de jure*.

39. **de gustibus non est disputandum**

Literal translation: concerning tastes there is to be no dispute

More common meaning: there is no accounting for tastes

In an English sentence: The waiter winced and said, "*De gustibus non est disputandum*" as the patron poured ketchup over everything on his plate.

In French people say, "*Chacun a son gout*," "Each to his own taste." In English, we say, "To each his own," or "Different strokes for different folks." And you may know an old song that goes, "You say to**may**to, I say to**mah**to..." All of these expressions remind us that different people like different things.

40. **de minimis non curat lex**

Literal translation: the law does not care about the smallest things

More common meaning: the law is not concerned with trifles

In an English sentence: The court invoked the doctrine *de minimis* and refused to hear a case brought by the student over his broken pencil.

This maxim means that a court will not listen to frivolous suits. The phrase is also used in science to describe a negligible amount of a substance. If, for example, a food has only trace amounts of a contaminant, the level is regarded as *de minimis*, and the food is considered pure.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. curriculum vitae _____
2. de facto _____
3. de jure _____
4. de gustibus non est disputandum _____
5. de minimis non curat lex _____

II. Use your knowledge of Latin to find the best meaning for these English words:

1. jurisprudence
 - a. the science and philosophy of medicine
 - b. the science and philosophy of architecture
 - c. the science and philosophy of law
2. gustatory
 - a. disgusting
 - b. tasteless
 - c. having to do with taste
3. minimal
 - a. least
 - b. most
 - c. major
4. curricule
 - a. part of a fingernail
 - b. a small horse drawn carriage
 - c. contamination
5. disputatious
 - a. argumentative
 - b. tasteless
 - c. legal

41. **de mortuis nil nisi bonum**

Literal translation: about the dead (say) nothing except good

In an English sentence: The gossip about the dead person ceased abruptly when someone said, "*De mortuis nil nisi bonum.*"

The Latin preposition *de* can have several meanings including "down from," "from," "concerning," or "about." *Mortuis* is related to the English word "mortal" that means a "human being." *Nil* is a shortened form of *nihil* that you learned in the phrase, *calvo turpius est nihil comato*. This phrase talks about dead people specifically, but anyone who is not present to defend himself should be safe from criticism or gossip.

42. **de novo**

Literal translation: from the new

More common meaning: anew

In an English sentence: After their experiment failed to produce the expected results, the scientists began their research *de novo*.

Novo is a form of *novus*, the Latin word for "new." You can see that the English word "novice," which means "beginner," is related to *novus*.

43. **deus ex machina**

Literal translation: god from the machine

More common meaning: any artificial or improbable device used to resolve the difficulties of a plot

In an English sentence: An unskilled writer may resort to a *deus ex machina* like a flood or an earthquake to end a story that has become too long and complicated.

In an ancient theater production, an actor playing the role of a god could be flown on stage by means of an apparatus like a crane. Today, an abrupt end to a play or novel can be called a *deus ex machina* ending.

44. **docendo discitur**

Literal translation: one learns by teaching

In an English sentence: The motto of the tutoring club is "*Docendo discitur.*"

If you have ever helped a friend with homework, you know how true this expression is! *Doceo* is the Latin word that means "I teach," and you know that a "docent" is a guide in a museum who **teaches** you about the displays. *Disco*, the Latin word for "learn," gives us the English words "discipline" and "disciple."

45. **dramatis personae (dram. pers.)**

Literal translation: the masks of a drama

More common meaning: (the cast of) characters in a play

In an English sentence: Most people like to look at the *dramatis personae* in their theater programs because they want to see what role each actor is playing.

Roman actors wore masks called *personae* that enabled them to project their voices and allowed a single actor to play several roles in the same production. All ancient actors were men so a mask was essential equipment for an actor playing a female role.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. de mortuis nil nisi bonum _____
2. de novo _____
3. deus ex machina _____
4. docendo discitur _____
5. dramatis personae _____

II. Write an English word that is related to each of these Latin words:

1. discitur _____
2. mortuis _____
3. docendo _____
4. novo _____

III. Pick three of the expressions from numbers 41–45, and use each in an English sentence that shows the meaning:

46. **dulce et decorum est pro patria mori**

Literal translation: it is sweet and fitting to die for one's country

In an English sentence: Soldiers believe *dulce et decorum est pro patria mori*.

The Roman author Horace wrote these words in a famous ode. During World War I, the English poet Wilfred Owen, used the phrase as the title of a bitter and moving poem about the horrors of trench warfare.

47. **e pluribus unum**

Literal translation: out of more (ingredients) one (stew)

More common meaning: out of many (backgrounds) one (nation)/out of many (states) one (nation)

In an English sentence: On the dollar bill and the Great Seal of the United States there is a picture of an eagle holding a banner with the words *E Pluribus Unum* on it.

You probably recognize these words as the motto of the United States. You can see the motto on the penny, the dollar bill, and the Great Seal of the United States. We sometimes speak about the United States as a melting pot society; thus it is interesting that the Romans used this expression to describe a dish like stew.

48. **emeritus, emerita**

Literal translation: with merit

More common meaning: retired

In an English sentence: The professor *emerita* no longer taught regularly, but she was still active in professional organizations.

Emeritus describes a man who has retired while *emerita* describes a woman. *Emeriti* is the plural form for both. You can see “merit” within each word; the implication seems clear that an older person deserves or merits retiring.

49. **errare humanum est**

Literal translation: to err is human

More common meaning: everybody makes mistakes

In an English sentence: The teacher comforted the tearful child who had made a mistake by saying, “*Errare humanum est.*”

English words like “err” and “error” are clearly related to this Latin verb *errare*.

50. **et alia (et al.)**

Literal translation: and the others

In an English sentence: The new history textbook is written by Jones, Smith *et al.*

Do you remember the word *alibi*? Now, remember that the syllable “al” means “other,” and this will be an easy phrase to learn. *Et al.* is used in bibliographies when a book or article has a long list of joint authors. *Alia* is the neuter plural form of the Latin word *alius*, and Latin students may know that *alii* is the masculine plural, and *aliae* the feminine plural.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. dulce et decorum est pro patria mori _____
2. e pluribus unum _____
3. emeritus, emerita _____
4. errare humanum est _____
5. et alia (et al.) _____

II. Use your knowledge of Latin to figure out what each English word means. Then, check a dictionary. Write the correct definition and an English sentence showing that you understand the meaning of each word:

1. dulcimer

2. erratum (pl. errata)

3. pluralistic

4. expatriate

5. decorum

51. **et cetera (etc.)**

Literal translation: and the rest

In an English sentence: Before you leave, you need to pick up the trash, straighten the desks, put away the books, *etc.*

If you have seen the musical “The King and I,” you will remember the king shouting, “*Et cetera, et cetera, et cetera!*” Latin students will recognize that *cetera* is neuter plural.

52. **et tu, Brute?**

Literal translation: You also, Brutus? Even you, Brutus?

In an English sentence: As Julius Caesar was dying from multiple stab wounds, he is supposed to have said, “*Et tu, Brute?*”

Caesar is thought to have recognized his friend and former ally Brutus among his assassins. Notice that Brutus's name changes to *Brute* in Latin because he is being addressed directly.

53. **ex cathedra**

Literal translation: from (the bishop's) chair

More common meaning: with authority

In an English sentence: The president issued new orders to the generals *ex cathedra*.

The church where a bishop is based is a cathedral, and in a cathedral there is an actual chair for a bishop. However, a pronouncement *ex cathedra* does not have to come from a bishop; it can come from anyone speaking with the authority of his or her office.

54. **ex libris**

Literal translation: from the books

More common meaning: from the library (of)

In an English sentence: Have you ever borrowed a book and found the owner's name on a bookplate with the words *ex libris*?

Do not confuse the Latin word *liber*, which means “book,” with *libra*, which means “weight” or “pound.” The English word “library” will help you remember this. If you are a Latin student, you probably know the Latin word for “free” which is *liber*, *libera*, *liberum*, and you can think of the word “liberty” to remember it.

55. **ex nihilo nihil fit**

Literal translation: nothing is made from nothing

In an English sentence: The teacher sighed as she looked at the blank quiz paper from a student who never studied, and said, “*Ex nihilo nihil fit.*”

This phrase states the obvious; zero plus zero equals zero is another way to say the same thing in English. The phrase also reminds us that nothing is free, and you have to work for what you get.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. et cetera (etc.) _____
2. et tu, Brute? _____
3. ex cathedra _____
4. ex libris _____
5. ex nihilo nihil fit _____

II. Use the Latin you have learned to translate the following words:

(Hint: some of these words are from expressions you learned earlier.)

1. ex _____
2. et _____
3. tu _____
4. cum _____
5. nihil _____
6. ego _____
7. vita _____
8. lex _____
9. est _____
10. bellum _____

56. **ex officio**

Literal translation: from the office

More common meaning: by virtue of one's position

In an English sentence: The mayor served as advisor *ex officio* to the town's committee on beautification.

Actual membership in a particular group is not required for an important executive to participate in the group's activities. The executive is allowed to be involved because of the power inherent in the office.

57. **ex post facto**

Literal translation: from what is done afterward

More common meaning: retroactively, subsequently

In an English sentence: Although the new rule will apply to new situations, it will not be enforced *ex post facto*.

When a new law or regulation goes into effect, it is not fair to apply the new ruling to an action performed before the new rule was in place. The U.S. constitution specifically forbids such *ex post facto* laws.

58. **ex tempore**

Literal translation: out of the time, at the moment

More common meaning: on the spur of the moment

In an English sentence: The lawyer had nothing prepared, so he began to speak *ex tempore*.

When people speak *ex tempore*, they are speaking without any preparation. In fact, that is exactly what the English word "extemporaneous" means.

59. **exempli gratia (e.g.)**

Literal translation: for the sake of an example

More common meaning: for example

In an English sentence: Great authors, *e.g.* Shakespeare, are known for their ability to create memorable characters.

This is one of the most common Latin expressions found in English. It is the equivalent of the phrase "for example."

60. **exeat**

Literal translation: let him/her leave

More common meaning: a permission to leave

In an English sentence: Students at Eton are required to have an *exeat* before they leave the school grounds.

You might find the expression *exeat* in a book about an English boarding school. In Latin *exeat* is a subjunctive verb, not a noun at all!

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. ex officio _____
2. ex post facto _____
3. ex tempore _____
4. exempli gratia (e.g.) _____
5. exeat _____

II. Look over the abbreviations you have learned from sententiae 36–60. Give the Latin and the English for each:

1. e.g. _____
2. C.V. _____
3. et al. _____
4. etc. _____
5. ca., c. _____
6. cf. _____

III. Use one of the abbreviations in exercise II in a sentence that shows you know its meaning:

61. **exit**

Literal translation: he/she leaves

More common meaning: way out

In an English sentence: You often see the word *exit* over doorways in theaters and auditoriums.

Exit is a Latin verb, but an English noun. *Exit* can be used as a stage direction telling an actor to leave the stage.

62. **exeunt omnes**

Literal translation: they all leave

In an English sentence: Look for the words *exeunt omnes* at the ends of scenes in Shakespeare's plays.

Like *exit*, *exeunt omnes* is a stage direction that tells actors the scene is over.

63. **festina lente**

Literal translation: make haste slowly

In an English sentence: An apparent contradiction like *festina lente* is called a paradox.

The Emperor Augustus is said to have chosen this phrase as his personal credo. It might seem impossible to hurry slowly, but the phrase makes sense if you think of the fable of the tortoise and the hare. The hare made haste but lost the race. The slower, more careful tortoise plugged along steadily and came in first.

64. **fiat lux**

Literal translation: let light be made

More common meaning: let there be light

In an English sentence: The camp counselor called out, "*Fiat lux!*" as she turned on her flashlight.

This phrase comes from the story of creation in the book of Genesis in the Old Testament. *Fiat* means "let it be done" or "let it be made." The word *fiat* is an English word meaning a "decree" or "command," because a decree is something that is to be done.

65. **finis**

Literal translation: the end

In an English sentence: The weary author penned the final sentence in the novel, and then with a sigh wrote, *finis*.

Have you ever seen *finis* at the end of a book or a long story?

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. exit _____
2. exeunt omnes _____
3. festina lente _____
4. fiat lux _____
5. finis _____

II. Match:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. ____ fiat lux | A. make haste slowly |
| 2. ____ festina lente | B. let there be light |
| 3. ____ exit | C. the end |
| 4. ____ finis | D. they all leave |
| 5. ____ exeunt omnes | E. way out |

III. Find out three facts about the Roman emperor Augustus, whose motto was *festina lente*. List them below:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

66. **genius loci**

Literal translation: guardian spirit of a place

In an English sentence: A teacher who has been at the same school for a long time might be called its *genius loci*.

The Romans believed that spirits inhabited all sorts of inanimate objects like doorways and trees. It is no surprise to discover that they believed a place with a special feeling or atmosphere had its own *genius loci*.

67. **habeas corpus**

Literal translation: may you have the body (of evidence)

More common meaning: right of citizens to avoid unlawful imprisonment

In an English sentence: The dictator put an immediate end to *habeas corpus*.

One of the most treasured traditions of American democracy is the notion that a citizen cannot be imprisoned indefinitely without a trial. A prisoner has the right to present a document called a writ of *habeas corpus* to a judge who must bring the case to court or dismiss it in a timely manner.

68. **homo sapiens**

Literal translation: wise human

More common meaning: human being

In an English sentence: The anthropologist was looking for traces of the ancestors of *homo sapiens*.

In the eighteenth century a Swedish botanist named Karl von Linne developed a system of classification for all living plants and animals. He gave each specimen two Latin names. In von Linne's system of binomial nomenclature *homo sapiens* is a human being. *Homo* in Latin means "human being," and *sapiens* means "wise." Von Linne used Latin for his system because Latin was the international language of scholars and scientists at that time. He also took a Latinized form of his own name: Carolus Linnaeus.

69. **ibidem (ibid.)**

Literal translation: in the same place

In an English sentence: I used the abbreviation *ibid.* in many of the footnotes in my research paper instead of giving the same title and author over and over.

Ibidem or its abbreviation *ibid.* is used in footnotes when the book has been cited earlier.

70. **id est (i.e.)**

Literal translation: that is

More common meaning: in other words

In an English sentence: The ninth graders, *i.e.* the freshmen, will leave first.

Id est is a very common Latin expression found in everyday English. Be careful not to confuse *i.e.* with *e.g.*, which means "for example."

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. genius loci _____
2. habeas corpus _____
3. homo sapiens _____
4. ibidem (ibid.) _____
5. id est (i.e.) _____

II. Connect the beginning of each expression to its missing part (hint: some of the expressions are from 60–70):

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| 1. exeunt | loci |
| 2. festina | corpus |
| 3. exempli | sapiens |
| 4. genius | lente |
| 5. homo | gratia |
| 6. habeas | omnes |

III. Circle the best meaning for each English word:

1. sapient
 - a. wise
 - b. saline
 - c. stupid
2. deity
 - a. god
 - b. priest
 - c. genius
3. hominid
 - a. related to a human
 - b. homely
 - c. small insect

71. **ignis fatuus**

Literal meaning: foolish fire

More common meaning: will-o'-the-wisp, something misleading

In an English sentence: The disillusioned investor sadly realized that the fortune she had hoped to acquire was only an *ignis fatuus*.

When swamp gas catches fire spontaneously, the fire is called a will-o'-the-wisp. People sometimes follow an *ignis fatuus* or swamp fire thinking they are following an actual beacon or lamp. The word for “fire” in Latin is *ignis*, and *fatuus* means “foolish.” Think of the English words “ignite” and “fatuous” to help you remember this expression.

72. **ignoramus**

Literal translation: we are ignorant

More common meaning: an extremely ignorant person

In an English sentence: Only an *ignoramus* would make fun of a good student who spends a lot of time studying.

If you know Latin, you know that the ending *-mus* is a verb ending, not a noun ending. *Ignoramus*, however, is an English noun meaning an “ignorant person.”

73. **ignorantia legis neminem excusat**

Literal translation: ignorance of the law excuses no one

In an English sentence: “*Ignorantia legis neminem excusat*,” said the policeman to the speeder who claimed that he was unaware of the speed limit.

This is another expression that states the obvious: you cannot avoid getting in trouble by simply saying you did not know your actions were against the rules!

74. **in absentia**

Literal translation: in one’s absence

In an English sentence: Jane was home with a cold when her friends nominated her for class president *in absentia*.

This is an easy expression to remember because the Latin word *absentia* is so close to the English word “absence.”

75. **in extremis**

Literal translation: among the last things

More common meaning: in extreme circumstances, at the point of death

In an English sentence: The wounded warrior *in extremis* cried out for help.

Extremis means the farthest away (last) from the point of view of the speaker. In this phrase *extremis* is translated “last.” It is interesting that the English word “extremities” means “fingers” and “toes,” the farthest parts of your body.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. ignis fatuus _____
2. ignoramus _____
3. ignorantia legis neminem excusat _____
4. in absentia _____
5. in extremis _____

II. Write the definition of each English word. Then write the Latin word from which each English word is derived:

1. fatuous _____

2. ignite _____

3. extreme _____

III. Fill in the blank with the Latin expression that is translated in the parentheses:

1. When it comes to spelling I am an _____ (**an extremely ignorant person**).
2. The _____ (**will o' the wisp**) proved to be nothing more than moonlight reflected in the puddle.
3. The drowning swimmer cried out for help when he was _____ (at **the point of death**).
4. My friend was not at the meeting so she was elected secretary of the group _____ (**in absence**).

76. **in flagrante delicto**

Literal translation: in a burning crime

More common meaning: caught in the act, caught red-handed

In an English sentence: The thief was caught *in flagrante delicto*.

Flagrante means “burning.” It is the root of the English word “flagrant,” which means “shockingly noticeable.” *Delicto* means “crime.”

77. **in hoc signo vinces**

Literal translation: in this sign you will conquer

In an English sentence: The painting showed the Emperor Constantine with the words *in hoc signo vinces* above his head.

In 314 CE, two rivals for the throne of the Roman Empire, Constantine and Maxentius, met at the Milvian Bridge north of Rome. There, Constantine had a dream in which he heard the Holy Ghost saying, “*In hoc signo vinces*.” The sign Constantine saw in his dream was a symbol of Christ consisting of the Greek letters *chi* and *rho* which are the first letters of Christ. The Greek letter *chi* looks like a Latin *X*, and a *rho* looks like a *P*. Although Constantine was not a Christian, he won the battle against Maxentius, became emperor, and ordered the persecution of Christians to cease. Constantine converted to Christianity on his deathbed.

78. **in loco parentis**

Literal translation: in place of a parent

In an English sentence: While the child’s parents were away, neighbors acted *in loco parentis*.

A school is considered to be responsible for the welfare of its students because it stands *in loco parentis*.

79. **in medias res**

Literal translation: into the midst of things

In an English sentence: The *Iliad* plunges *in medias res*: the first book takes place in the tenth year of the Trojan War, not the first!

The opening scenes of an ancient epic like the *Iliad* or the *Odyssey*, can be confusing because the story picks up in the middle of the action.

80. **in memoriam**

Literal translation: in memory

In an English sentence: After the soldier’s death, a fund was established *in memoriam*.

This phrase can be found on the obituary page of a newspaper. Latin students who know that *in* with the accusative means “into” will notice that *in* does NOT translate “into” in this phrase even though *memoriam* is accusative.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. in flagrante delicto _____
2. in hoc signo vinces _____
3. in loco parentis _____
4. in medias res _____
5. in memoriam _____

II. Answer briefly:

1. What is the Latin root of the English word “flagrant?” What does the Latin word mean? What does “flagrant” mean?

2. What kind of ancient literature begins *in medias res*? Give an example.

3. In what section of a newspaper would you find the phrase *in memoriam*?

4. Where did Maxentius and Constantine fight a decisive battle for control of the Roman Empire?

5. What sign did Constantine see the night before the battle with Maxentius?

81. **in re**

Literal translation: in the matter (of)

In an English sentence: The law students were assigned to read a case titled *In Re Malvo*.

Modern lawyers do not use Latin very often, but old court cases are sometimes known by the names of the parties concerned.

82. **in situ**

Literal translation: in place

More common meaning: in its original position

In an English sentence: Archeologists usually photograph their finds *in situ* before the artifacts are removed and sent to a museum.

You can see that the English word “site” is derived from the Latin word *situ(s)*. Do not confuse “site” with its homonyms “cite,” which means “quote,” or “sight,” which means “vision.”

83. **in toto**

Literal translation: in total

More common meaning: entirely

In an English sentence: The old science laboratory is so outdated that it must be replaced *in toto*.

You might think *toto* had something to do with Oz, but it comes from the Latin word *totus*, which means “all” or “total.”

84. **in utero**

Literal translation: in the womb

More common meaning: unborn

In an English sentence: With modern technology it is possible to photograph a baby *in utero*.

You can see that the English word “uterus,” which is another word for “womb,” is the same word in Latin.

85. **in vacuo**

Literal translation: in a vacuum

More common meaning: in emptiness, without considering other factors

In an English sentence: If you hear about a bad decision someone made *in vacuo*, it means that the decision maker did not consider all sides of the question.

In Latin the word for empty is *vacuus*. It has two “u”s in many of its forms, and that is why the English word “vacuum” has two “u”s.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. in re _____
2. in situ _____
3. in toto _____
4. in utero _____
5. in vacuo _____

II. Give the Latin word which means:

1. womb _____
2. emptiness _____
3. place, position _____
4. a court case _____
5. entirety _____

III. Answer briefly:

1. If archeologists are studying artifacts *in situ*, what are they doing?

2. Why does the English word "vacuum" have two "u"s?

86. **in vino veritas**

Literal translation: in wine (there is) truth

In an English sentence: Perhaps wine bottles should come with the words *in vino veritas* as a warning label.

This expression is a reminder that when people drink too much, they may become so uninhibited that they speak more bluntly than usual.

87. **in vitro**

Literal translation: in a glass container

More common meaning: in a test tube

In an English sentence: The scientist carried out many experiments *in vitro*.

The Latin word for “glass” is *vitrum*, and *in vitro* means “in a glass container.” Today *in vitro* is used in science to indicate research done in a test tube as opposed to research done *in vivo* which is carried out on living organisms. When you see the letters IVE, they stand for *in vitro* fertilization, i.e., fertilization in a test tube.

88. **ipso facto**

Literal translation: by the fact itself

More common meaning: by that very fact

In an English sentence: The student's outstanding grade point average qualified her, *ipso facto*, to serve as the valedictorian of the graduating class.

Facto is a form of *factum*, the Latin word for “fact” or “deed.”

89. **lapsus calami = lapsus pennae**

Literal translation: slip of the pen

In an English sentence: The scribe had to re-write an entire page of his manuscript because of one *lapsus pennae* in the last line.

If you leave out a word or write the same word twice, you have made a *lapsus pennae*. *Lapsus*, which means “slip” in Latin, looks like the English word “lapse.” There are two words for “pen” because the Romans sometimes wrote with a sharpened reed called a *calamus*, or sometimes with a feather quill called a *penna*.

90. **lapsus linguae**

Literal translation: slip of the tongue

In an English sentence: Calling your brother by your dog's name could only be a *lapsus linguae*.

The English word “linguist,” which means an expert in languages, comes from the Latin word *lingua* meaning “tongue.”

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. in vino veritas _____
2. in vitro _____
3. ipso facto _____
4. lapsus calami/lapsus pennae _____
5. lapsus linguae _____

II. Review the last ten expressions you have learned and then match:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. ____ in vitro | A. in the matter (of) |
| 2. ____ in utero | B. in place |
| 3. ____ ipso facto | C. in total, entirely |
| 4. ____ lapsus calami/lapsus pennae | D. in a glass container |
| 5. ____ lapsus linguae | E. slip of the tongue |
| 6. ____ in re | F. slip of the pen |
| 7. ____ in situ | G. by that very fact |
| 8. ____ in toto | H. in wine (there is) truth |
| 9. ____ in vacuo | I. in emptiness |
| 10. ____ in vino veritas | J. in the womb, unborn |

91. **lapsus memoriae**

Literal translation: slip of the memory

In an English sentence: I had a brief *lapsus memoriae* when I started to dial my friend's new phone number.

Be careful not to suffer a *lapsus memoriae* when you are learning new Latin expressions this week!

92. **libra (lb)**

Literal translation: weight

More common meaning: pound

In an English sentence: My mother asked me to buy a ten *lb* bag of flour.

A pound is a measure of weight that is the equivalent of sixteen ounces or about half a kilogram. Look for the abbreviation *lb* on packages of sugar or flour next time you are in a grocery store. It is the abbreviation of the Latin word *libra* that means "pound." In England or Scotland, the abbreviation *L* stands for a pound sterling.

93. **locum tenens**

Literal translation: (one) holding a place

More common meaning: a substitute

In an English sentence: The doctor hired a *locum* while she was on vacation.

You already know the word for "place" in Latin if you remember the phrase *in loco parentis*, and *tenens* is a form of the verb *teneo* meaning "hold." The English word "tenacious," which means "holding persistently," comes from this verb. Sometimes you will see the word *locum* used by itself to mean "substitute."

94. **magna cum laude**

Literal translation: with great praise

In an English sentence: Your parents will be very proud if you graduate *magna cum laude*.

You already know the phrase *cum laude*, so just think of "magnify" and "magnificent," and you will remember that *magna* means "great."

95. **magnum opus**

Literal translation: great work

More common use: masterpiece

In an English sentence: The artist spent years creating his *magnum opus*.

A craftsman in the Middle Ages was required to serve first as an apprentice and then as a journeyman as he perfected his skills. In order to become a master craftsman he was expected to create a work worthy of a master. The word for "work" in Latin is *opus*. A work of classical music is classified by *opus* number, and you may have seen a movie about a music teacher called *Mr. Holland's Opus*.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. lapsus memoriae _____
2. libra (lb) _____
3. locum tenens _____
4. magna cum laude _____
5. magnum opus _____

II. Fill in the blank with the Latin expression that is translated in the parentheses:

1. The outstanding student will graduate _____ (**with great praise**).
2. Many consider Hamlet to be Shakespeare's _____ (**masterpiece**).
3. Have you ever suffered a _____ (**slip of the memory**) when taking a quiz?
4. The label on the bag of sugar said ten _____ (**pounds**).

III. You should now know 95 Latin expressions commonly found in English. For the next week, look in magazines and newspapers, internet sites, and books. Find at least 3 of the phrases or their abbreviations and note them below:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

96. **mandamus**

Literal translation: we command

More common meaning: order by a higher court

In an English sentence: The judge handed down a writ of *mandamus*.

Mando means “I command” in Latin. The ending *-mus* indicates that the subject of the verb is the pronoun “we.” You might find this word used in a news story reporting that a writ of *mandamus* was issued requiring a lower court to perform a specific task. A writ is a formal document.

97. **mea culpa**

Literal translation: (by) my fault

In an English sentence: Someone who has made a mistake might apologize by saying, “*Mea culpa!*”

These words are part of a prayer of confession. *Culpa*, the Latin word for “fault,” gives us English words like “culpable,” which means “guilty,” and “exculpate,” which means “to clear of guilt.”

98. **memento mori**

Literal translation: be mindful of dying

More common meaning: remember (that you) are mortal

In an English sentence: The brass tablets in the college chapel serve as a *memento mori*.

In English a memento is a souvenir, while in Latin *memento* is an imperative verb meaning “remember.” The phrase *dulce et decorum est pro patria mori* will help you remember that *mori* means “to die.” A victorious Roman general celebrating his military success with an elaborate parade rode in a chariot. Behind him stood a servant who repeated the words *memento mori* so that the general would remain humble and not begin to think of himself as a god.

99. **mens sana in corpore sano**

Literal translation: a sound mind in a sound body

In an English sentence: Our school motto is *mens sana in corpore sano*.

It is easy to remember *sana* and *sano* if you think of their English opposite: “insane.” You have seen *corpore* in another form in expressions like *habeas corpus* and *corpus delicti*.

100. **mirabile dictu**

Literal translation: amazing to say

In an English sentence: In spite of the bad weather, *mirabile dictu*, the ceremony today went as planned.

Vergil, the author of the Roman epic the *Aeneid*, uses this expression whenever his hero encounters something marvelous, like a monster or a god or a ghost.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. mandamus _____
2. memento mori _____
3. mea culpa _____
4. mens sana in corpore sano _____
5. mirabile dictu _____

II. Draw a scene with stick figures. Have one of the figures saying a Latin expression:

101. **modus operandi (M.O.)**

Literal translation: way of operating

In an English sentence: The thief was famous for his unusual *M.O.*: he always entered his victims' houses via the chimney.

Modus means "way" or "manner" in Latin, and *opero* is a Latin verb which means "operate."

102. **modus vivendi**

Literal translation: way of living, lifestyle

In an English sentence: A person who owns several houses and takes expensive vacations has a luxurious *modus vivendi*.

The Latin verb *vivo* means "live," and *vivendi* is a form of *vivo*. The English word "vivacious," meaning "lively," is a derivative of *vivo*.

103. **morituri te salutamus**

Literal translation: we (who are) about to die salute you

In an English sentence: Gladiators in the Colosseum in Rome saluted the emperor with the words, "*Morituri te salutamus!*"

Sometimes the phrase, *Ave Caesar*, "Hail Caesar," is given as the first part of this expression. Gladiators were indeed expected to fight to the death. You can see that *morituri* is related to *mortuis* and *mori*, words you already know from other expressions.

104. **ne plus ultra**

Literal translation: no more beyond

More common meaning: the pinnacle, the top

In an English sentence: Quasimodo achieved the *ne plus ultra* of bell ringing.

If you are the best at something, you cannot go beyond your summit of achievement; you are the *ne plus ultra!*

105. **nemo est supra leges**

Literal translation: no one is above the law

In an English sentence: The policeman said, "*Nemo est supra leges!*" as he handed the senator the parking ticket.

Nemo in Latin means "no one." Jules Verne's Captain Nemo and Disney's animated fish have the same name, so this should be an easy expression to learn.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. modus operandi (M.O.) _____
2. modus vivendi _____
3. morituri te salutamus _____
4. ne plus ultra _____
5. nemo est supra leges _____

II. Supply the missing word:

1. morituri _____ salutamus
2. _____ vivendi
3. ne _____ ultra
4. nemo est _____ leges

III. Give the meaning of these English words:

1. vivacious _____
2. exculpate _____
3. culpable _____

106. **nihil per os (n.p.o.)**

Literal translation: nothing by mouth

In an English sentence: The doctor left *n.p.o.* as an instruction for a patient.

Nihil meaning “nothing” gives us the English word “annihilate,” which means “to destroy completely.”

107. **nil desperandum**

Literal translation: nothing must be despaired of

More common meaning: never give up

In an English sentence: Even if your team has yet to score and the game is nearly over, your coach might say, “*Nil desperandum!*”

Nil is a shortened form of *nihil*. Sometimes people use the word *nil* instead of zero when they are giving scores of games. You might hear someone say, “The score was 8 – *nil*,” instead of “The score was 8 to zero.”

108. **nolo contendere**

Literal translation: I do not want to contest

More common meaning: plea by a defendant essentially admitting guilt

In an English sentence: Former Vice President Spiro Agnew entered a plea of *nolo contendere* to charges of bribery.

Remember that Latin pronouns are often understood? Here the *-o* of *nolo* indicates that the subject is “I.” A person accused of a crime may enter this plea without technically admitting any guilt. A court can then assign punishment even though there has been no admission of guilt.

109. **non compos mentis**

Literal translation: not sound of mind

In an English sentence: The court appointed a guardian for the patient who was clearly *non compos mentis*.

Mentis is another form of the Latin word *mens*, which you met in the expression *mens sana in corpore sano*. The expression *non compos mentis* is used to describe someone who is not competent to manage his own affairs.

110. **non sequitur**

Literal translation: it does not follow

More common meaning: an illogical statement

In an English sentence: A *non sequitur* can interrupt a speaker’s train of thought.

Suppose you heard someone say, “I love ice cream. Vanilla is my favorite flavor. The sky is blue.” You might be a little confused by the last sentence, and it could be called a *non sequitur* because it is not connected logically to the previous ideas. It is simply a random thought. You may have seen a comic strip called “*Non Sequitur*” which appears in some newspapers.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. nihil per os _____
2. nil desperandum _____
3. nolo contendere _____
4. non compos mentis _____
5. non sequitur _____

II. Abbreviations are always a little tricky. How many do you remember? Give the Latin and the English for each:

	Latin	English
1.	ibid. _____	_____
2.	i.e. _____	_____
3.	lb _____	_____
4.	M.O. _____	_____
5.	n.p.o. _____	_____

111. **nota bene (N.B.)**

Literal translation: note well

More common meaning: pay attention

In an English sentence: The teacher called attention to due dates on the assignment sheet with the abbreviation *N.B.*

If you did not know that *N.B.* stands for “note well,” you might assume that you were supposed to write something in your notebook when you saw those letters.

112. **novus ordo seclorum**

Literal translation: new order of the ages

More common meaning: new world order

In an English sentence: When you found the Latin words *annuit coeptis* on the back of the one dollar bill, you also saw the phrase *novus ordo seclorum* on a banner under the picture of the pyramid.

This quotation comes from the *Bucolics* of Vergil, and it is an especially appropriate phrase to describe the United States whose democracy was an entirely new form of government. Latin students may have learned the word *saeculum* meaning “age” or “generation.” *Seclorum* is the genitive plural of *saeculum*, but the diphthong *ae* has been simplified to the letter *e*, and the *u* has dropped out.

113. **O tempora! O mores!**

Literal translation: O the times! O the customs!

In an English sentence: The Roman orator Cicero cried out, “*O tempora! O mores!*” to show his despair at the decadence of the times in which he lived.

In English, “mores” means “morals” as well as “customs.”

114. **onus probandi**

Literal translation: burden of proving

More common meaning: burden of proof

In an English sentence: The *onus probandi* lies with the prosecution who are trying to establish the defendant's guilt.

This legal expression is easy to recognize if you know that the letters *b* and *v* are closely related. You can also think of the English word “probation,” which means a period of time during which a person is proving his worth. Another English derivative is the word “approbation,” which means “approval.”

115. **opus citatum = opere citato (op.cit.)**

Literal meaning: work cited

In an English sentence: It saves time to use the abbreviation *op.cit.* in footnotes because you do not have to write out all the words in a lengthy title more than once even if you have used the same source several times.

Like the abbreviation *ibid.*, *op.cit.* can sometimes be found in footnotes. Writers use *op.cit.* to avoid writing out the full title of a work from which they have already quoted. You know the word *opus* from the phrase *magnum opus*.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. nota bene (N.B.) _____
2. novus ordo seclorum _____
3. O tempora! O mores! _____
4. onus probandi _____
5. opus citatum, opere citato (op. cit.) _____

II. Add the missing word to each expression:

1. novus ordo _____
2. O tempora! O _____
3. onus _____
4. opus _____
5. nota _____

III. Define:

1. mores _____
2. approbation _____
3. probation _____

116. **panem et circenses**

Literal translation: bread and circuses

In an English sentence: “No more *panem et circenses*,” announced the teacher. “It is time to get to work.”

Roman politicians gave free bread and free entertainment to the poor people of Rome to keep them quiet and contented. A **companion** originally meant someone with whom you shared bread, and circuses are still a source of entertainment.

117. **pater familias**

Literal translation: father of the family

In an English sentence: The stern *paterfamilias* removed his erring son’s name from his will.

If you are a Latin student, you might expect *familias* to end in *-ae* here because it means “of the family,” but *-as* is an archaic ending, which shows possession. This phrase is sometimes written in English as a single word, as are “bonafide” and “ante-bellum.” *Mater familias* is a similar expression that means “mother of the family,” but a mother did not wield the same power as did a Roman father who had the power of life and death over those in his household.

118. **pax vobiscum**

Literal translation: peace (be) with you

In an English sentence: The congregation left the church after the priest said, “*Pax vobiscum*.”

Do you remember *cum laude*, the Latin phrase which means “with praise?” Notice that here *cum*, the word for “with,” is attached to the end of the word *vobis*. A similar Latin phrase is *pax nobiscum* meaning “Peace (be) with us.”

119. **peccavi**

Literal translation: I have sinned

In an English sentence: “You can tell that *peccavi* is perfect tense because the helping verb **have** is used in its translation,” said the Latin teacher.

The Latin verb *peccare* means “to sin.” There are two interesting English derivatives of *peccare*: “impeccable” meaning “perfect” and “peccadillo” meaning a “little mistake.” *Peccavi* is a famous expression because a nineteenth century British general fighting in a part of India called Sind sent a legendary telegram with the single word *peccavi* to report his victory over the region. The message was a pun because he meant, “I have [conquered] Sind,” not “I have sinned.”

120. **per annum**

Literal translation: by the year

More common meaning: annually

In an English sentence: The family’s income *per annum* has doubled recently.

You saw another form of *annum* in the phrase *anno Domini*.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. panem et circenses _____
2. pater familias _____
3. pax vobiscum _____
4. peccavi _____
5. per annum _____

II. Fill in the blank with the Latin expression which is translated in the parentheses:

1. The family's income _____ (**by the year**) was sufficient for their needs.
2. As we parted, my friend said, " _____ (**peace be with you**)."
3. To keep his people's favor the emperor promised _____ (**bread and circuses**).
4. The cruel _____ (**father of the family**) refused his daughter permission to marry.

III. Give meanings:

1. impeccable: _____

2. peccadillo: _____

121. **per capita**

Literal translation: by heads

More common meaning: individually

In an English sentence: The new tax was assessed on a *per capita* basis.

You often see this expression used in phrases like “*per capita* income,” meaning the average income of each individual.

122. **per centum (per cent.)**

Literal translation: out of each hundred

In an English sentence: An interest rate of two *per centum* is very low for a mortgage.

This phrase is usually shortened in English and written as one word: “percent.” English words like “cent” and “century” are derived from *centum*.

123. **per diem**

Literal translation: by the day

More common meaning: daily allowance

In an English sentence: The company provided a generous *per diem* for its employees when they were traveling.

Some businesses and organizations have a fixed amount which employees are allowed to spend each day when they are traveling. This allowance is called a *per diem*. *Dies* is the Latin word for “day.”

124. **per se**

Literal translation: by itself

More common meaning: intrinsically, directly

In an English sentence: The weather *per se* did not cause the schools to close; other factors played a role.

Per se is a very common expression in English. Latin students have probably learned that the preposition *per* means “through,” but you can see that *per* is translated “by” in expressions like *per diem*, *per capita*, and *per se*.

125. **persona non grata**

Literal translation: unwelcome person

In an English sentence: The State Department declared the accused spy to be a *persona non grata*.

A country can designate a visitor as a *persona non grata* for any number of reasons including suspected terrorist activities or criminal charges lodged in the person's own country. A person who has been declared a *persona non grata* must leave the country immediately.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. per capita _____
2. per centum _____
3. per diem _____
4. per se _____
5. persona non grata _____

II. Unscramble the second part of each expression:

1. per mied _____
2. per muntec _____
3. per pacait _____

III. List as many English words as you can which are derived from *grata*:

126. **placebo**

Literal meaning: I will please

More common meaning: an inactive medicine given merely to satisfy a patient

In an English sentence: The patient's condition improved although the pill he took was only a *placebo*.

When scientists want to examine the effects of a new medication, they give a certain number of people in the study a sugar pill instead of the new medicine. The sugar pill is called a *placebo* because sometimes it seems to please the patients as much as the real medicine. Improvement that occurs because patients believe they have received medication is called a *placebo* effect.

127. **pons asinorum**

Literal translation: bridge of donkeys

More common meaning: Euclid's fifth proposition in Geometry

In an English sentence: The whole class cheered when everyone was finally able to pass the *pons asinorum*.

During Medieval times, all students studied Euclid's Geometry. The solution to Euclid's fifth proposition required a diagram resembling a bridge, and a student who could not solve the problem was considered an ass.

128. **post hoc, ergo propter hoc**

Literal translation: after this, therefore on account of it

In an English sentence: When a student argued that an earlier event had caused a later one, the teacher said, "No, remember *post hoc, ergo propter hoc!*"

In Latin *hoc* means "this" or "it," *propter* means "on account of," and *ergo* means "therefore." This phrase is used in logic to remind us that just because something happened before something else did, the first event is not necessarily the cause of the second one. For example, it might appear at first glance that a water shortage was the result of the drought, when in fact a broken pipe bringing water from another part of the country was the true cause.

129. **post meridiem (P.M.)**

Literal translation: after noon

In an English sentence: The meeting is set for 3:00 *P.M.* tomorrow.

Here is a familiar phrase. It is the opposite of *ante meridiem (A.M.)*.

130. **post mortem**

Literal translation: after death

More common meaning: examination of a corpse

In an English sentence: A police surgeon must perform the *post mortem* in a case of suspected murder.

If someone dies under mysterious circumstances, a *post mortem* will be performed to determine the cause of death.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

- 1. placebo _____
- 2. pons asinorum _____
- 3. post hoc, ergo propter hoc _____
- 4. post meridiem (P.M.) _____
- 5. post mortem _____

II. Write a short paragraph in which you use **three** of the expressions above:

131. **post scriptum (P.S.)**

Literal meaning: written after

More common meaning: an afterthought added to a completed letter or book

In an English sentence: My friend always adds at least one *P.S.* to every e-mail.

Here is another familiar phrase. People used *P.S.* when they made additions to letters, now they use it with e-mail. You can easily remember that *post* means “after” if you think of the English word “postpone.”

132. **prima facie**

Literal translation: at first appearance

More common meaning: obvious on the face of it

In an English sentence: If you come home to find a window broken and all of your possessions missing, you have *prima facie* evidence of a burglary.

Prima is a form of the Latin word *primus* that means “first,” and *facie* comes from *facies* meaning “appearance.”

133. **pro bono publico**

Literal translation: for the people’s good

More common meaning: free

In an English sentence: The busy lawyer still found time for *pro bono* work.

Lawyers, doctors, and teachers frequently do work without charge for people who cannot afford to pay them for their services. This work is done *pro bono publico*, “for the people’s good.” Sometimes, the phrase is shortened to *pro bono*.

134. **pro forma**

Literal translation: on behalf of the form

More common meaning: for the sake of appearance

In an English sentence: Before the game, tradition requires a *pro forma* handshake by the captains of the opposing teams.

A *pro forma* handshake does not imply friendship, it just means that the two people are following a tradition and being polite.

135. **pro rata**

Literal translation: according to a fixed share

More common meaning: in proportion

In an English sentence: The car payments were set on a *pro rata* basis.

Often a large debt like a mortgage is too much to pay off all at once so the lender allows the debtor to pay in installments, *pro rata*. The English verb “prorate” means “to divide evenly.”

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. post scriptum (P.S.) _____
2. prima facie _____
3. pro bono publico _____
4. pro forma _____
5. pro rata _____

II. Review phrases 126–135. Then complete the matching:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. ___ pro bono publico | A. at first appearance |
| 2. ___ pro forma | B. written after |
| 3. ___ pro rata | C. in proportion |
| 4. ___ post hoc, ergo propter hoc | D. afternoon |
| 5. ___ placebo | E. inactive medication |
| 6. ___ pons asinorum | F. for the sake of appearance |
| 7. ___ post meridiem (P.M.) | G. after death examination |
| 8. ___ post mortem | H. Euclid's fifth proposition |
| 9. ___ post scriptum (P.S.) | I. free |
| 10. ___ prima facie | J. after his, therefore on account of it |

136. **pro se**

Literal translation: on one's own behalf

More common meaning: in one's own defense

In an English sentence: The accused person chose to enter a defense *pro se*.

Most people want a lawyer to defend them if they are charged with a crime, but occasionally someone wants to mount a defense *pro se*. Don't confuse *pro se* (on one's own behalf) with *per se* (by itself, intrinsically)!

137. **pro tempore (pro tem.)**

Literal translation: for the time being

More common meaning: temporarily

In an English sentence: When the Vice President is absent, the Senate elects a President *pro tem.* to preside.

If a person is filling a position *pro tem.*, it is not a long term commitment. You may know someone who has worked as a temp. employee.

138. **quis custodiet ipsos custodes?**

Literal translation: who will guard the guards themselves?

In an English sentence: When the banker pointed out the many security guards, the nervous depositor asked, "*Quis custodiet ipsos custodes ?*"

You know the English words "custody" and "custodian" so it will be easy to remember that both *custodiet* and *custodes* have to do with guards. This phrase is a reminder that even a person in a position of trust may need supervision.

139. **qui tacet consentit**

Literal translation: he who is silent consents

More common meaning: (One) who is silent consents

In an English sentence: While the President did not specifically authorize the espionage, he was informed about it, and *qui tacet consentit*.

When you say nothing, you are giving approval silently. The English word "tacit" means "silent."

140. **quidnunc**

Literal translation: what now

More common meaning: a busybody

In an English sentence: Be careful what you say to the class *quidnunc!*

Quid in Latin means "what," and *nunc* means "now." Someone who is always asking, "What now?" is probably eager to learn the latest gossip and can be called a *quidnunc*.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. pro se _____
2. pro tempore _____
3. quis custodiet ipsos custodes? _____
4. qui tacet consentit _____
5. quidnunc _____

II. It is time to look at abbreviations again. Write the Latin and the English for these abbreviations.

1. pro tem. _____
2. P.M. _____
3. P.S. _____

III. Describe a situation in which you might use the phrase, *quis custodiet ipsos custodes?*:

141. **quid pro quo**

Literal translation: something for something

More common meaning: tit for tat

In an English sentence: I hid my friend's book so, as *quid pro quo*, she hid my pencil.

Quid pro quo can describe a situation in which one person seeks revenge from another who has harmed him. Here, *quid pro quo* means “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.” The phrase can also refer to a situation in which a kind deed is repaid with kindness.

142. **quod erat demonstrandum (Q.E.D.)**

Literal translation: that which was to be proved

In an English sentence: The student who put his work on the board wrote *quod erat demonstrandum* beside the answer.

You might put this phrase or its abbreviation at the end of a math problem to show that your final answer is correct, and that you have proved what the problem required you to prove.

143. **quod vide (q.v.)**

Literal translation: which see

More common meaning: refer to

In an English sentence: At the end of the article I saw the letters *q.v.* followed by several references.

Like *confer (cf.)*, *quod vide (q.v.)* appears in dictionaries and encyclopedias to guide readers to other related entries in the same reference book.

144. **rara avis**

Literal translation: a rare bird

More common meaning: an unusual person

In an English sentence: My eccentric friend is a *rara avis*.

A zoo usually has an aviary, a large cage for birds, and an aviator is someone who flies. Both of these English words come from the Latin word *avis*.

145. **re**

Literal translation: in the matter, thing, affair

More common meaning: regarding

In an English sentence: The e-mail's title was “*Re*: the new schedule.”

When people see *re* in an e-mail, they sometimes think it means “reply,” but *re* is actually the ablative of the Latin word *res* (thing or affair). You saw *re* in the legal expression *in re*, meaning “in the matter of,” and you remember that *in re* can be used in the titles of court cases.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. quid pro quo _____
2. quod erat demonstandum (Q.E.D.) _____
3. quod vide (q.v.) _____
4. rara avis _____
5. re _____

II. Give an example of a situation in which someone might write *Q.E.D.*:

III. Give an example of a situation in which someone might offer *quid pro quo*:



Fig. 3
Rara avis.

146. **rebus**

Literal translation: by things

More common meaning: a puzzle which uses pictures of things

In an English sentence: The newspaper often printed a *rebus* on the children's puzzle page.

If you have ever written "I love you" on a valentine using a picture of an eye for "I" and a heart for "love," you have made a *rebus*! Like *re*, *rebus* is a form of the Latin word *res* meaning "thing, matter, affair."

147. **recipe (Rx)**

Literal translation: take

More common meanings: (1) *recipe* = directions for cooking a particular dish

(2) *Rx* = symbol for a prescription

In an English sentence: (1) I found a new *recipe* for pie crust. (2) The pharmacy counter was easy to find because of the large *Rx* sign that was prominently displayed above it.

Recipe is a command in Latin, which means "take." In cooking, a recipe is followed by the list of ingredients. A pharmacist, like a cook, takes various ingredients to make up a prescription. Scribes in the Middle Ages simply wrote the letter R with a cross to show that they were leaving off the letters *-ecipe*. Thus, the *x* is not really the letter *x*; rather, it is an abbreviation.

148. **res ipsa loquitur**

Literal translation: the thing speaks for itself

More common meaning: the situation is obvious

In an English sentence: "*Res ipsa loquitur!*" said the sophomore scornfully to the bewildered freshman who was confused about the schedule.

You already know that the Latin word *res* can be translated "thing." *Loquitur* is easy to remember if you think of English words like "eloquent," which means "articulate," or "loquacious," which means "talkative."

149. **resquiescat in pace (R.I.P.)**

Literal translation: may he/she rest in peace.

In an English sentence: The letters *R.I.P.* were barely visible on the old tombstone.

It is interesting that *R.I.P.* stands for "rest in peace" in both Latin and English. *R.I.P.* often appears on gravestones.

150. **sanctum sanctorum**

Literal translation: holy of holies

More common meaning: a very private place

In an English sentence: The professor's study was her *sanctum sanctorum*.

In English, "sanctify" means "to make holy," so you can easily remember that both *sanctum* and *sanctorum* are forms of the Latin adjective *sanctus* meaning "holy."

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. rebus _____
2. recipe (Rx) _____
3. res ipsa loquitur _____
4. requiescat in pace (R.I.P.) _____
5. sanctum sanctorum _____

II. Draw a *rebus*. Write out the English words you have represented visually:

III. Do you have a *sanctum sanctorum*? Describe a real or imagined *sanctum sanctorum*:

IV. Describe a situation in which someone might exclaim, "*Res ipsa loquitur!*"

151. **Senatus Populusque Romanus (S.P.Q.R)**

Literal translation: The Senate and the People of Rome

In an English sentence: Both the Roman Senate and the popular assemblies always wrote the letters *S.P.Q.R.* at the end of legislation that had been approved.

This famous phrase embodies the power of the Roman Republic. Notice that the word for “and” is the syllable *-que* attached to the end of *Populus*. In Rome today, you see the letters *S.P.Q.R.* on manhole covers, trashcans, and street lights. None of these, of course, existed in ancient times. They were installed during the 1920’s and 1930’s when the Fascist dictator Mussolini ruled Italy.

152. **seriatim**

Literal translation: in series

In an English sentence: The president will deal with the questions *seriatim*, not as a single issue.

The letters *-tim* are an adverbial ending in Latin, so another way to translate *seriatim* is “serially.”

153. **sic**

Literal translation: thus

In an English sentence: The letter reads “Dere (*sic*) John...”

Sic is a word you often see in direct quotations to indicate that a mistake in spelling or grammar came from the source, not from the writer or reporter.

154. **sic transit gloria mundi**

Literal translation: thus passes the glory of the world

In an English sentence: The millionaire commented, “*Sic transit gloria mundi*,” as he watched his mansion go up in flames.

This phrase is similar to our expression, “You can’t take it with you.” It is interesting that in Latin *transit* is a verb meaning “pass” while in English it is a noun meaning “transportation.” *Mundi* gives us the English word “mundane” which means “secular, commonplace,” or “ordinary.”

155. **sine die**

Literal translation: without a day

More common meaning: without a date set to reassemble

In an English sentence: Congress ended its session *sine die*.

If you hear on the nightly news broadcast that the Senate has adjourned *sine die*, and you do not know that the Latin word for “day” is *dies*, you might think this expression had to do with death! Of course, the news item merely means that the date to meet again has not been set.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. S.P.Q.R. _____
2. seriatim _____
3. sic _____
4. sic transit gloria mundi _____
5. sine die _____

II. Give the Latin word from which each English word is derived. Then give the meaning of the English word:

1. glorify _____
2. transit _____
3. mundane _____

III. Make up an imaginary quotation from a famous person that would require you to use *sic*:

156. **sine loco (s.l.)**

Literal translation: without a place

More common meaning: without a place of publication listed

In an English sentence: One of the books I used for my history paper listed its date of publication without mentioning the place where it had been published. I had to use the abbreviation *s.l.* for that book in my bibliography.

When you prepare a bibliography for a research paper, you note the publisher's information from the books you have used for your research. If no place of publication is listed, you simply write *s.l.*

157. **sine qua non**

Literal translation: without which not

More common meaning: the essential element, a necessity

In an English sentence: The *sine qua non* for success in life is hard work and honesty.

You have seen the Latin word *sine* in the expressions *sine die* and *sine loco*; this new phrase, thus, will be easy to remember.

158. **stare decisis**

Literal translation: the decision stands

In an English sentence: When the appeals court reaffirmed the lower court decision, it simply stated *stare decisis*.

Stare is the infinitive of the Latin verb "to stand," and you can see that *decisis* is the root of the English word "decision."

159. **statim (stat.)**

Literal translation: immediately

In an English sentence: In a hospital, doctors and nurses know that when they hear the word *stat.* on the public address system it means, "Come immediately!"

Remember the adverb *seriatim*? Here is another example of a Latin adverb ending in the letters *-tim*.

160. **status quo ante**

Literal translation: the condition in which things (were) before

In an English sentence: The planning commission decided to maintain the *status quo* rather than make dramatic changes in the traffic pattern of the busy intersection.

You sometimes see this expression with the word *ante* omitted. Then it means the condition in which things (are) (now).

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. sine loco _____
2. sine qua non _____
3. stare decisis _____
4. statim (stat.) _____
5. status quo ante _____

II. Answer briefly:

1. Why would you write *s.l.* in a bibliography?

2. If a peace treaty after a war says that the borders between two countries will return to "*status quo ante*," what does it mean?

3. What do doctors do when they hear "*stat?*"

4. What is the *sine qua non* for you to get a good night's sleep?



Fig. 4
Stat.

161. **stet**

Literal translation: let it stand

In an English sentence: The editor wrote *stet* on the last page of the manuscript.

When a manuscript is being prepared for publication, an editor writes *stet* on a page that has been corrected. *Stet* shows that the page should stand as written, in other words, that no more corrections need to be made to that page. *Stet* can also be used if the editor later decides to ignore an earlier correction. Then *stet* means that the original version should stand.

162. **sub poena**

Literal translation: under penalty

More common meaning: a legal document summoning a person to court

In an English sentence: The attorney will *subpoena* several witnesses to testify on his client's behalf.

You have probably heard this phrase, which can be a verb written as a single word in English.

163. **sub rosa**

Literal translation: under the rose

More common meaning: secretly

In an English sentence: The trade negotiations were conducted *sub rosa*.

If you have a secret to tell and you are very anxious not to be overheard, you might go outside in the garden where no one is likely to eavesdrop on your conversation.

164. **sui generis**

Literal translation: of its own kind

More common meaning: unique

In an English sentence: My dog is of no known breed; he is *sui generis*.

In Linnaeus' system of binomial nomenclature, each plant and animal has both a *genus* and a *species* name. The Latin word *genus* means "kind" or "sort," and *sui* means "of its own."

165. **sui juris**

Literal translation: in one's own right

More common meaning: having full legal capacity, i.e., not a child

In an English sentence: After his twenty-first birthday, the young heir will control his fortune *sui juris*.

You can see the root of the English word "jury" in the Latin word for "law" or "right." Latin students know that a Roman, whose alphabet did not include the letter *j* would have written *iuris*, instead of *juris*.

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. stet _____
2. sub poena _____
3. sub rosa _____
4. sui generis _____
5. sui juris _____

II. Use one of the new expressions to answer each question:

1. What is a near synonym for a *rara avis*?

2. What Latin phrase could describe a secret mission?

3. What expression would you find on a page in a corrected manuscript?

4. How can a lawyer ensure that a key witness will appear in court?



Fig. 5
Subpoena.

166. **summa cum laude**

Literal translation: with highest praise

In an English sentence: Only a small number of college seniors graduate *summa cum laude*.

Like *cum laude* and *magna cum laude*, *summa cum laude* is a mark of academic distinction. *Summa cum laude* is awarded to graduates with the highest grade point averages.

167. **tabula rasa**

Literal translation: blank slate

In an English sentence: Some people believe that a newborn baby's mind is a *tabula rasa* while others believe that some qualities are inborn.

The eighteenth century philosopher John Locke used this phrase to explain his notion that character and intelligence are not inborn. He said that an infant's mind is a *tabula rasa* at birth, and that a child's personality is shaped by life experiences. Locke believed that character is a product of nurture rather than of nature. The nature *vs.* nurture debate is still a matter of discussion.

168. **tempus fugit**

Literal translation: time flies

In an English sentence: "*Tempus fugit!*" exclaimed the boss. "We must work quickly to meet our deadline."

This is a familiar expression! You might find it written on a sundial or on a grandfather clock.

169. **terra firma**

Literal translation: solid earth, firm ground

In an English sentence: After a long plane trip or a rough boat ride, it is a relief to stand safely on *terra firma*.

Terra is the Latin root of English words like "terrain," "terrarium" and "subterranean." An ATV is an all terrain vehicle that can go anywhere on land.

170. **terra incognita**

Literal translation: unknown land

More common meaning: undiscovered territory

In an English sentence: Much of North America was marked *terra incognita* on the antique map.

Old maps labeled in Latin sometimes have large blank areas marked *terra incognita*. These lands were unknown: they had not yet been explored. *Incognita* is obviously related to the English word "incognito." If someone is traveling incognito, he or she is in disguise and does not want anyone to recognize who he is. He has probably taken an alias, another name. Remember that the first syllable of "**alibi**" comes from *alius* meaning "another."

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. summa cum laude _____
2. tabula rasa _____
3. tempus fugit _____
4. terra firma _____
5. terra incognita _____

II. Complete each phrase with the missing Latin word:

1. tempus _____
2. tabula _____
3. terra _____
4. terra _____
5. summa _____

III. Discuss John Locke's theory that the human mind is a *tabula rasa* at birth. Do think nature or nurture is more important in shaping a person's character?

171. **ultima Thule**

Literal translation: farthest Thule

More common meaning: the farthest point, the limit of any journey

In an English sentence: The travelers dreamt of reaching *ultima Thule*.

Ultima Thule was believed by the Romans to be the farthest point north. It is interesting to note that in modern times a city in Greenland was actually given the name Thule.

172. **vade mecum**

Literal meaning: go with me

More common meaning: a reference book or handbook carried at all times

In an English sentence: During orientation, my *vade mecum* was the student handbook that contained a campus map and a schedule of activities.

Notice that the Latin preposition *cum*, which means “with,” comes after the word *me*. We saw the same kind of reversed word order in the phrase *pax vobiscum*.

173. **veni, vidi, vici**

Literal meaning: I came, I saw, I conquered

More common meaning: a piece of cake, a slam dunk

In an English sentence: “*Veni, vidi, vici*,” bragged the coach of the winning team.

Julius Caesar wrote these three verbs in a famous dispatch announcing a victory he had won in battle against Pharnaces, King of Pontus. Today the phrase means an easy victory of any kind.

174. **verbatim**

Literal meaning: word for word

In an English sentence: The student wrote down *verbatim* everything the professor said.

In Latin *verbum* means not “verb,” but “word,” and the ending *-tim* is used for some adverbs. You may remember the word *seriatim*, which means “in series,” and *statim* that means “immediately.” An exact quotation is *verbatim*. There is another Latin word *litteratim*, which means “letter by letter,” or “literally.”

175. **verbum sapienti = verbum sat sapienti = verbum sapientibus**

Literal meaning: a word to the wise (is) sufficient

In an English sentence: When my teacher says, “*Verbum sapientibus*,” we know that she is giving us a hint about the material we should study most carefully.

This expression can be written several different ways: *sat* is short for the Latin word *satis*, which means “sufficient, enough.” You can remember *satis* easily if you think of the English word “satisfy.” *Sapientibus* is the plural of *sapienti*; both mean “to the wise,” and you can see that they are both forms of *sapiens*, a word you know from the phrase *homo sapiens*. In English the word “sapient” means “wise” or “discerning.” *Verbum* gives us the English word “verbose” which means “wordy.”

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. ultima Thule _____
2. vade mecum _____
3. veni, vidi, vici _____
4. verbatim _____
5. verbum sapienti _____

II. Explain what is going on this scenario:

The explorer ventured into *terra incognita*. She lost her precious atlas that had been her *vade mecum*. She crossed unknown mountains and seas, and as she seemed to approach *ultima Thule*, she longed for *terra firma*. At last, she reached her goal and cried, "*Veni, vidi, vici!*"

176. **versus (vs., v.)**

Literal translation: against

In an English sentence: The Saints *versus* the Ravens was an exciting game.

You probably know the word *versus* from the names of court cases like Brown *versus* Board of Ed. or descriptions of contests between opposing teams like the Redskins *versus* the Cowboys.

177. **vice versa**

Literal translation: the order having been changed

More common meaning: turn and about

In an English sentence: Every night I set the table and my brother washes the dishes, or *vice versa*.

One group in a Physical Education class might run laps while the other swims. When the groups switch activities, the swimmers run laps, and *vice versa*.

178. **videlicet (viz.)**

Literal translation: namely

In an English sentence: The first president *viz.* George Washington is famous for never telling a lie.

Remember the *x* in Rx that was not really the letter *x*, but an abbreviation? Here, the letter that looks like a *z* is really an abbreviation for the rest of the letters in the word *videlicet*.

179. **vivat**

Literal translation: may he (she) live

More common meaning: long live...

In an English sentence: The crowd shouted “*Vivat! Vivat!*” as the young prince rode past.

Vivat is from the Latin verb *vivo*, which means “to live.”

180. **viva voce**

Literal translation: by the living voice

More common meaning: orally, aloud

In an English sentence: Most exams are written, but occasionally an exam may be given *viva voce*.

Voce is a form of the Latin word *vox* that means “voice,” and you can see that “vocal” and “vociferous” are derivatives.

FINIS

Exercises:

I. Write the English meaning for each Latin expression:

1. versus (vs., v.) _____
2. vice versa _____
3. videlicet (viz.) _____
4. vivat _____
5. viva voce _____

II. Write out the English meaning of each abbreviation:

1. Q.E.D. _____
2. S.P.Q.R. _____
3. s.l. _____
4. stat. _____
5. vs., v. _____

III. Unscramble and translate these words:

1. oevc _____
2. earsv _____
3. taviv _____
4. eivc _____

IV. Use the following phrases in English sentences that show their meanings:

1. vice versa

2. videlicet (viz.)

CHAPTER TWO

Sententiae Latinae Review

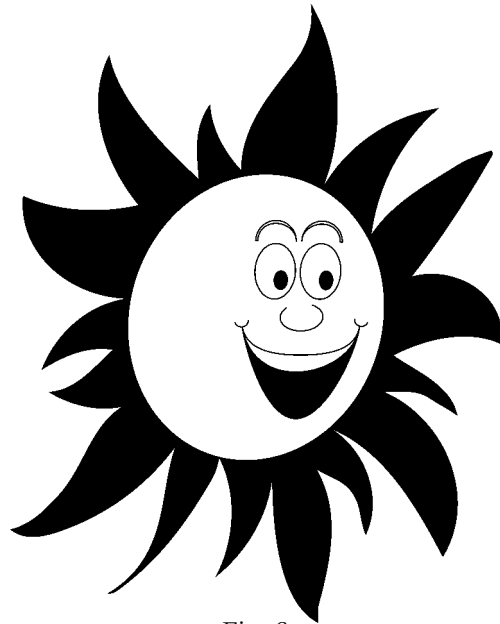


Fig. 6
Carpe diem.

Review Exercise: The Fabulous Forty

Here is a list of forty important Latin words and phrases that you learned in Chapter One. These exercises will help remind you what they mean. You may look up any you do not remember in Chapter One.

	Literal translation:	More common meaning:
1. ad hoc	_____	_____
2. ad nauseam	_____	_____
3. alibi	_____	_____
4. alma mater	_____	_____
5. alumnus, alumna	_____	_____
6. alter ego	_____	_____
7. bona fide	_____	_____
8. carpe diem	_____	_____
9. caveat emptor	_____	_____
10. cornucopia	_____	_____

Exercises 1-10

I. Fill in the blanks with one of the phrases 1-10:

1. The accused burglar had a (an) _____ (**defense of being elsewhere**) for the time in question.
2. At Thanksgiving the table was decorated with a _____ (**horn of plenty**).
3. My mother reminded me _____ (**to the point of disgust**) to clean up my room .
4. The discount is available only to _____ (**genuine**) students.
5. My friend is an _____ (**graduate**) of my old school.
6. My friend and I have the same _____ (**old school**).
7. The assistant secretary is the _____ (**deputy**) of the secretary.
8. The principal appointed an _____ (**for this purpose**) committee to look into the question of Saturday classes.
9. A good motto for a bargain hunter is _____ (**buyer beware**).
10. "Seize the moment" could be a translation of the phrase _____.

II. Match:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. ____ horn of plenty | A. carpe diem |
| 2. ____ buyer beware | B. alibi |
| 3. ____ genuine | C. ad hoc |
| 4. ____ defense of being elsewhere | D. alter ego |
| 5. ____ seize the day | E. alumnus |
| 6. ____ old school | F. cornucopia |
| 7. ____ for this purpose | G. alma mater |
| 8. ____ deputy | H. bona fide |
| 9. ____ to the point of disgust | I. caveat emptor |
| 10. ____ graduate | J. ad nauseam |

Review Exercise: The Fabulous Forty (cont'd)

	Literal translation:	More common meaning:
11. cum laude	_____	_____
12. magna cum laude	_____	_____
13. summa cum laude	_____	_____
14. dramatis personae	_____	_____
15. e pluribus unum	_____	_____
16. emeritus, emerita	_____	_____
17. ex libris	_____	_____
18. ex officio	_____	_____
19. ex tempore	_____	_____
20. exit	_____	_____



Fig. 7
Ex libris.

Exercises 11–20

I. Give the Latin phrase which you would most likely find in each setting:

1. a theater program: _____
2. a penny, a dollar bill, or the Great Seal of the United States: _____
3. a bookplate: _____
4. the diploma of a very good student: _____
5. the diploma of an excellent student: _____
6. the diploma of a remarkably outstanding student: _____
7. the door out of an auditorium: _____

II. Give the English meaning of each phrase from question I:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

III. Give the Latin word or phrase that means:

1. retired _____
2. without rehearsal _____
3. by virtue of one's office _____

Review Exercise: The Fabulous Forty (cont'd)

	Literal translation:	More common meaning:
21. habeas corpus	_____	_____
22. homo sapiens	_____	_____
23. in flagrante delicto	_____	_____
24. in absentia	_____	_____
25. mea culpa	_____	_____
26. non compos mentis	_____	_____
27. non sequitur	_____	_____
28. panem et circenses	_____	_____
29. pater familias	_____	_____
30. per capita	_____	_____

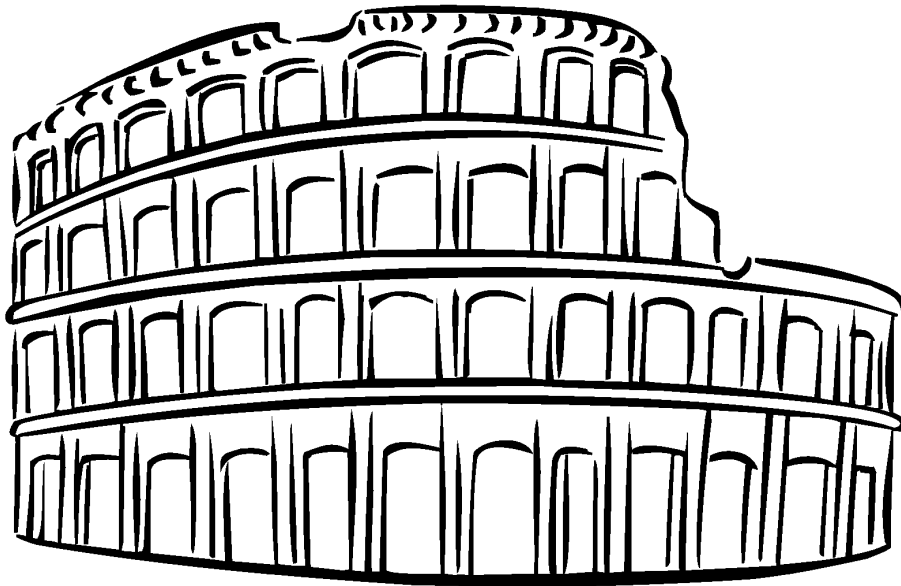


Fig. 8
Panem et circenses.

Exercises 21–30

I. Give the Latin phrase which means:

1. in one's absence _____
2. my fault _____
3. human being _____
4. not of sound mind _____
5. right of citizens to avoid unlawful imprisonment _____
6. caught in the act _____
7. an illogical statement _____
8. father of the family _____
9. bread and circuses _____
10. individually _____

II. Use 5 of the phrases in question I in English sentences to show that you know what they mean:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Review Exercise: The Fabulous Forty (cont'd)

	Literal translation:	More common meaning:
31. per se	_____	_____
32. persona non grata	_____	_____
33. pro bono publico	_____	_____
34. quid pro quo	_____	_____
35. sine die	_____	_____
36. status quo ante	_____	_____
37. sub poena	_____	_____
38. tabula rasa	_____	_____
39. tempus fugit	_____	_____
40. terra firma	_____	_____

Exercises 31–40

I. Fill in the blanks with the Latin phrase which best completes the sentence:

1. After the rough sea I was glad to set foot again on _____ (**firm ground**).
2. Locke believed that an infant's mind is a _____ (**blank slate**).
3. The Senate adjourned _____ (**without a day set to reassemble**).
4. The sundial's legend read _____ (**time flies**).
5. The attorney spent hours doing _____ (**free**) work for clients who could not pay for his services.
6. The State Department declared the alien a _____ (**unwelcome person**).
7. The new agreement will maintain the _____ (**condition things were before**).
8. The poor condition of the road did not cause the accident _____ (**by itself**).
9. If you return a kindness for a kindness, this is an example of _____ (**tit for tat**).
10. The judge issued a _____ (**a legal document summoning a person to court**) for the important witness.

II. Complete each Latin phrase with the missing word. Then translate the phrase:

1. tabula _____
2. quid _____
3. terra _____
4. sine _____
5. status _____

Review Exercise: Verba Sapienti

Match the Latin saying to its meaning.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. ___ quidnunc | A. unknown land |
| 2. ___ veni, vidi, vici | B. word for word |
| 3. ___ tabula rasa | C. let it stand |
| 4. ___ terra firma | D. one of a kind |
| 5. ___ sub poena | E. time flies |
| 6. ___ terra incognita | F. firm ground |
| 7. ___ vade mecum | G. namely |
| 8. ___ stet | H. secretly |
| 9. ___ sub rosa | I. immediately |
| 10. ___ videlicet (viz.) | J. blank slate |
| 11. ___ verbatim | K. I came, I saw, I conquered |
| 12. ___ status quo | L. a gossip |
| 13. ___ sui generis | M. handbook |
| 14. ___ tempus fugit | N. situation as it stands |
| 15. ___ statim (stat.) | O. summons which threatens punishment for noncompliance |

CHAPTER THREE

Mottoes



Fig. 9
Great Seal of the United States.

United States Mottoes

e pluribus unum

Literal translation: out of more one

More common meaning: one out of many

To Romans long ago this phrase was a description of stew or soup, one dish made from lots of different ingredients. To Americans today this motto is a reminder that our nation is made up of people from many different backgrounds and cultures. Another way to look at the phrase is to remember that we have one federal government made up of many states. You will see these Latin words on the Great Seal of the United States. They are also on the dollar bill, the penny, and the quarter.

annuit coeptis

Literal translation: He (God) has nodded at our undertakings

More common meaning: He (God) has favored our undertakings

When you look at a dollar bill, you will see two other Latin phrases besides *E Pluribus Unum*. Both are quotations from the great Roman poet Vergil. *Annuit Coeptis* comes from Book 9 of the *Aeneid*, Vergil's epic poem about the founding of Rome. It is interesting that *annuit* literally means "nods," but it comes to mean, "nods agreement" or "nods favor." *Coeptis* is related to the verb *coepi* meaning "to begin."

novus ordo seclorum

Literal translation: a new order of ages

More common meaning: new world order

Before he wrote the *Aeneid*, Vergil wrote a book called the *Bucolics* to celebrate the land of Italy and a life of farming. This phrase comes from the fourth book of the *Bucolics*. It is sometimes translated, "A new order of ages" because *seclorum* comes from the Latin word *seclum* (also spelled *saeculum* or *saeculum*) which means "age" or "generation."

Exercises:

I. Sketch the Great Seal of the United States. (Hint: use a one-dollar bill):

II. Explain the similarity between the Latin phrase, *e pluribus unum*, and the English phrase, "a melting pot:"

III. How does the phrase *e pluribus unum* also apply to the government of the United States?

State Mottoes

ad astra per aspera (Kansas)

Literal translation: to the stars through difficulties

English words like “astronomy,” “astrology,” “astronaut” all are derived from the Latin word *astra*, which means “stars.” A flower called an aster looks like a star and so does the symbol * which is known as an asterisk. *Aspera* literally means “rough” or “difficult” in Latin, but it sounds better in English to translate it as the noun “difficulty.” You may know the English word “asperity,” which means “sharpness” or “roughness.” You might speak with asperity to someone who has annoyed you. It is interesting that the motto of the Royal Air Force, *per ardua ad astra* can also be translated “To the stars through difficulties.”

alis volat propriis (Oregon)

Literal translation: she flies by her own wings

“Volatile” in English means “fickle” or “changeable,” or in science, “easily evaporated.” You can see that “volatile” is related to *volat*, which comes from the Latin verb *volare*, “to fly.” *Propriis* gives us the English word “expropriate, to take away,” and *alis* gives us “alate,” which means “having wings.” What a wonderful image of the state of Oregon taking flight!

audemus jura nostra defendere (Alabama)

Literal translation: we dare to defend our rights

“Audacious” means “bold” in English, and you can see that it is related to *audemus*. You can also see that “jury” is a derivative of *jura*. Latin students will remember that the Latin alphabet did not include the letter *j* so the letter *i* was used both as a vowel and as a consonant. This means that a Roman would have written *iura*, not *jura*.



Fig. 10
Great Seal of the State of Kansas.

Exercises:

I. Write out **the Latin and the English** for the mottoes of Kansas, Oregon, and Alabama:

1. Kansas

2. Oregon

3. Alabama

II. Answer these questions briefly:

1. What is the motto of the Royal Air Force? How do you translate it?

2. What English word is related to the Latin word *jura*?

III. Complete the chart below. Use a dictionary to check the meaning of the English words:

	English derivative	Meaning of English derivative	Latin word	Translation of Latin
1.	astronomy	_____	_____	_____
2.	astrology	_____	_____	_____
3.	asperity	_____	_____	_____
4.	audacious	_____	_____	_____
5.	alate	_____	_____	_____
6.	volatile	_____	_____	_____

cedant arma togae (Wyoming)

Literal translation: let arms yield to the toga

More common meaning: let war yield to peace

You have probably seen pictures or statues of Roman orators wearing robes called togas. The toga was considered the national garment of Rome, and the right to wear one was accorded to male Roman citizens only. The poet Vergil proudly called the Romans the *gens togata*, the toga wearing people. Other nations were scornfully known as the *bracati*, the trouser wearing people. Togas were made of wool and were long enough to wrap around the wearer twice. They were held in place by careful draping, never with pins. Thus, a man wearing a toga had to keep it in place with his left hand. Some wealthy Roman households actually included a valet called a *vestiplicus* who was skilled in the art of draping a toga. Because a toga was so bulky and difficult to keep in place, it was completely unsuitable for a soldier. In this motto, “toga” is used to symbolize peace while *arma* or “weapons” stand for “war.”

crescit eundo (New Mexico)

Literal translation: it grows by going.

More common meaning: it grows as it goes

The Roman poet Vergil used this phrase in the *Aeneid* to describe the monster Rumor, who grows larger as she goes from one person to another. Here, however, the phrase means that New Mexico is a state that keeps getting bigger and better as it grows. A “crescendo” in music is a passage in which the volume keeps **growing** louder so it is easy to remember that the verb *crescit* means “grow.” Latin verbs ending in the letters *-sco* are called inceptives, and they indicate something that is just beginning to happen. For example, the Latin verb *adulesco* means “to begin to grow up.”

Deo gratias habeamus (Kentucky)

Literal translation: let us have thanks to God

You probably know the English word “deity” meaning “god” or “goddess.” You can see that “deity” is related to *deo*, a form of the Latin word *deus*. You can also see that “gratify,” “grace” and “gratitude” are English words derived from the Latin word *gratia*.

Exercises:

I. Write out **the Latin and the English** for the mottoes of Wyoming, New Mexico, and Kentucky:

1. Wyoming

2. New Mexico

3. Kentucky

II. Answer briefly:

1. What does the word *toga* symbolize in the motto *cedant arma togae*? What does the word *arma* symbolize?

2. What did the Romans call people who wore trousers?

III. Complete the chart below. Use a dictionary to check the meaning of the English words:

	English derivative	Meaning of English derivative	Latin word	Translation of Latin
1.	deity	_____	_____	_____
2.	gratify	_____	_____	_____
3.	crescendo	_____	_____	_____

dirigo (Maine)

Literal translation: I direct

When a Latin verb ends in *-o*, the pronoun “I” is understood as the subject. This means that *dirigo* is translated, not simply “direct,” but rather “I direct.” You may have heard the phrase, “As goes Maine, so goes the nation.” That expression comes from the fact that in presidential elections, the votes of a small number of voters in one community in Maine are always counted quickly, and, in the days before computer projections, these votes were used to predict the outcome of the whole election. The state motto is a reflection of this tradition.

ditat Deus (Arizona)

Literal translation: God enriches

Remember the motto of Kentucky that began with the word *Deo*? *Deus* in this motto is another form of the same Latin word. It is interesting that the name itself of the state of Arizona comes from two Latin words; *aridus* meaning “dry” and “*zona*” meaning “belt” or “zone.”

dum spiro spero (South Carolina)

Literal translation: as long as I breathe, I hope

More common meaning: while there is life, there is hope

A poet is **inspired** by beauty, an insect breathes through **spiracles**, and you **perspire** when you are hot. The base of all three English words, “inspire,” “spiracle,” and “perspire,” is the Latin word *spiro*, meaning “I breathe.” *Dum* in Latin has several meanings: “as long as,” “while,” or “until.” *Sperare* is the infinitive of the Latin verb that means “to hope.” There is another Latin word *spes* for the noun meaning “hope.”

N.B. Interestingly, South Carolina has an additional Latin motto: *Animis opibusque parati*, which means “prepared in minds and resources.” Both mottoes are on the state seal.



Fig. 11

Great Seal of the State of Maine.

Exercises:

I. Write out **the Latin and the English** of the mottoes of Maine, Arizona, and South Carolina. Be sure to give two mottoes for South Carolina:

1. Maine

2. Arizona

3. South Carolina

II. Answer briefly:

1. What does the ending *-o* on a Latin verb tell you to understand? (Hint: Look at the motto of Maine)

2. To what tradition does the expression “As goes Maine, so goes the nation” refer?

3. Where does Arizona get its name?

III. Complete the chart below. Use a dictionary to check the meaning of the English words:

	English derivative	Meaning of English derivative	Latin word	Translation of Latin
1.	spiracle	_____	_____	_____
2.	inspire	_____	_____	_____
3.	dirigible	_____	_____	_____

ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem (Massachusetts)

Literal translation: with a sword she seeks peaceful quiet with liberty

Ensis and *gladius* are synonyms in Latin. Both mean “sword.” If you remember that a **peti**-tion in English is a document that **seeks** something or that you **seek** food when you have an **appetite** or that **competitors** all **seek** to win, *petit* is easy to remember. When we translate *petit* as “she seeks,” “she” means Massachusetts. It may seem odd to speak of seeking “peaceful quiet with liberty by means of a sword,” but we all realize that we have to be ready to defend our liberty.

esse quam videri (North Carolina)

Literal translation: to be rather than to seem

In English the unconjugated form of a verb has two parts: “to” plus the verb. This form is called an “infinitive.” For example, the infinitive of “love” is “to love.” In Latin, present infinitives are all one word so *esse* and *videri* are both infinitives. Notice that we translate both infinitives with “to.” The English word “essence” is a derivative of *esse*, and this motto clearly emphasizes the importance of what people are inside, not what is **evident** on the outside. Their **essence** is what matters!

esto perpetuo (Idaho)

Literal translation: be forever

“Perpetual” in English makes *perpetuo* easy to remember, and you can see that *esto* is related to *esse*, “to be.” The ending *-to* makes the verb a command. Grammar books call a command an imperative.

excelsior (New York)

Literal translation: higher

Have you ever sung a Christmas carol with the refrain, *Gloria in excelsis Deo*? Those Latin words mean “Glory to God in the highest.” Here, *excelsior* is another form of *excelsis*. It is called a comparative because you use it when you compare two things. Notice that in Latin comparatives end in *-ior* while in English they end in *-er*.

Exercises:

I. Write out **the Latin and the English** of the mottoes of Massachusetts, North Carolina, Idaho, and New York:

1. Massachusetts

2. North Carolina

3. Idaho

4. New York

II. Answer briefly:

1. What is another word in Latin besides *ensis*, which means “sword?”

2. Explain the derivation of the English word “appetite.”

III. Complete the chart below. Use a dictionary to check the meaning of the English words:

	English derivative	Meaning of English derivative	Latin word	Translation of Latin
1.	essence	_____	_____	_____
2.	excel	_____	_____	_____
3.	petition	_____	_____	_____

Motto Review Exercise #1

I. Match:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. ___ esse quam videri | A. God enriches |
| 2. ___ ad astra per aspera | B. I direct |
| 3. ___ esto perpetuo | C. to be rather than to seem |
| 4. ___ crescit eundo | D. to the stars through difficulties |
| 5. ___ alis volat propriis | E. higher |
| 6. ___ audemus jura nostra defendere | F. be forever |
| 7. ___ excelsior | G. while there is life, there is hope |
| 8. ___ ditat Deus | H. it grows as it goes |
| 9. ___ dum spiro spero | I. we dare to defend our rights |
| 10. ___ dirigo | J. she flies by her own wings |

II. Which is your favorite motto? Why?

III. Match the Latin word to its English meaning:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. ____ ensis | A. god |
| 2. ____ deus | B. thanks |
| 3. ____ arma | C. she seeks |
| 4. ____ petit | D. sword |
| 5. ____ gratia | E. weapons |

IV. List two mottoes that focus on each theme:

1. peace

2. religion/god

imperium in imperio (Ohio)

Literal translation: an empire in an empire

In the late eighteenth century, Ohio territory must have seemed big enough to be its own country or empire! “Imperial” in English means “having supreme power.”

justitia omnibus (District of Columbia, D.C.)

Literal translation: justice for all

Justitia looks like its English counterpart, and *omnibus* is translated “for all” because Latin words ending in the letters *-bus* often include an English preposition like “to” or “for” when they are translated. “Omnibus” is actually an English word, which means an “anthology of **all** the works of a particular author.” Long ago, “omnibus” had a different meaning in English: it meant a large carriage big enough to transport lots of people at one time. It was useful “for all.” Nowadays, we use the ending of the word to mean a big vehicle. We call it a bus.

labor omnia vincit (Oklahoma)

Literal translation: work conquers all

You have heard people say, “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.” This motto says the same thing in different words. It is interesting that the word *labor* is the same in Latin and in English, and you probably know two common English derivatives of *labor*: “laborious” meaning “tedious” and “elaborate” meaning “elegant.” You can also probably guess that the English word “invincible” means “unconquerable” when you know that *vincit* means “conquer.”

Exercises:

I. Write out **the Latin and the English** of the mottoes of Ohio, D.C., and Oklahoma:

1. Ohio

2. District of Columbia (D.C.)

3. Oklahoma

II. Answer briefly:

1. What is an English phrase that is very similar in meaning to *Labor omnia vincit*?

2. Can you translate a similar Latin phrase *amor omnia vincit*?

III. Complete the chart below. Use a dictionary to check the meaning of the English words:

	English derivative	Meaning of English derivative	Latin word	Translation of Latin
1.	omnibus	_____	_____	_____
2.	invincible	_____	_____	_____
3.	imperial	_____	_____	_____
4.	laborious	_____	_____	_____
5.	elaborate	_____	_____	_____

montani semper liberi (West Virginia)

Literal translation: mountain people (are) always free

Montani looks like its meaning, but *semper* is hard to remember unless you know the English word “sempiternal”, which means “always, forever.” *Liberi* begins with the same syllables as “liberty.”

nil sine Numine (Colorado)

Literal translation: nothing without God

“Nil” means nothing in English as well as in Latin. You can also think of the English expression “willy-nilly,” which is short for “will he (want to do something), nil he (not want to do it at all).” *Numine* is an interesting word because it is related to the Latin verb *nuo*, “to nod.” We saw a compound of this verb in the motto *Annuit coeptis* meaning “He (God) has favored our undertakings.” You might wonder what nodding has to do with favoring, but the Romans believed that a divinity showed favor by nodding approval. “Numinous” is an English adjective meaning “supernatural.” You might see it in a description of a special place that has a numinous atmosphere.

qui transtulit sustinet (Connecticut)

Literal translation: He (God) who transplanted sustains

Connecticut was one of the original thirteen colonies that became the United States, and the state motto reminds us that the first colonists were “transplanted” from England. “To sustain” means “to maintain.”



Fig. 12

Great Seal of the State of West Virginia.

Exercises:

I. Write out **the Latin and the English** of the mottoes of West Virginia, Colorado, and Connecticut:

1. West Virginia

2. Colorado

3. Connecticut

II. Answer briefly:

1. Explain the word *transtulit* in the motto of Connecticut.

2. Use the expression “willy-nilly” in an English sentence.

III. Complete the chart below. Use a dictionary to check the meaning of the English words:

	English derivative	Meaning of English derivative	Latin word	Translation of Latin
1.	sempiternal	_____	_____	_____
2.	numinous	_____	_____	_____
3.	sustain	_____	_____	_____
4.	supernatural	_____	_____	_____

regnat populus (Arkansas)

Literal translation: the people rule

Do you know the phrase *Senatus Populusque Romanus*, which means the “Senate and People of Rome?” If so, you will recognize the Latin word *populus*. The first syllable of *regnat* appears in many English words that relate to ruling or to kings and queens. “Regalia,” for example, means “elegant attire worn for special occasions.”

salus populi suprema lex esto (Missouri)

Literal translation: let the safety of the people be the supreme law

We saw *esto* in the motto of Idaho, *Esto perpetuo*. Notice that the word *populus* has changed to *populi* here so we add the word “of” when we translate it. *Salus* gives us the English word “salubrious,” which means “healthy.” You might read about an area of the country, which has a salubrious climate.

scuto bonae voluntatis tuae coronasti nos (Maryland)

Literal translation: You (God) have crowned us with the shield of Your good will

Scuto means “shield” in Latin, and *bonae voluntatis* means “good will.” You can see that the English word “voluntary,” which means “willing,” is related to *voluntatis*.

Exercises:

I. Write out **the Latin and the English** of the mottoes of Arkansas, Missouri, and Maryland:

1. Arkansas

2. Missouri

3. Maryland

II. Answer briefly:

1. What do the letters S.P.Q.R. stand for? What does the phrase mean?

2. What does the Latin word *scuto* mean?

III. Complete the chart below. Use a dictionary to check the meaning of the English words:

	English derivative	Meaning of English derivative	Latin word	Translation of Latin
1.	regalia	_____	_____	_____
2.	voluntary	_____	_____	_____
3.	salubrious	_____	_____	_____

si quaeris peninsulam amoenam, circumspice (Michigan)

Literal translation: if you seek a pleasant peninsula, look around

You can see why this motto was chosen for Michigan if you know that the state actually is a peninsula. The English word “peninsula” comes from two Latin words, *paene* meaning “almost” and *insula* meaning “island.” This makes sense when you consider that a peninsula really would be an island if it had water on four sides instead of only three. Another interesting derivative comes from the Latin word *amoenam* meaning “pleasant.” The English word “amenity” means “something that is pleasant but not essential.” Heated towel racks might be an example of an amenity advertised in a real estate listing.

sic semper tyrannis (Virginia)

Literal translation: thus always to tyrants

When you hear the word *tyrannis*, you might think of the dinosaur *Tyrannosaurus Rex*, but the motto of Virginia has nothing to do with dinosaurs! Instead, an actual tyrant is shown on the state seal. He is lying on the ground, and a fierce warrior woman is standing with her foot on his neck. The woman represents *Virtus*, the spirit of Virginia. *Virtus* in Latin means “courage.” *Sic* can be used in English to mean “thus,” “in this way.” When there is a grammar mistake in a quotation, the writer who is making the citation will add *sic* to show that the error came from the person being quoted, not from the writer. Finally, you can remember that *semper* means “always” if you remember the motto of West Virginia, *montani semper liberi* (mountain people are **always** free).

virtute et armis (Mississippi)

Literal translation: by courage and arms

Virtute looks like the English word “virtue,” but actually means “courage” in Latin. *Armis* is a form of *arma*, the word for “weapons” we saw in the motto of Wyoming, *cedant arma togae*. The English word “armament” is a cognate.



Fig. 13

Great Seal of the State of Virginia.

Exercises:

I. Write out **the Latin and the English** of the mottoes of Michigan, Virginia, and Mississippi:

1. Michigan

2. Virginia

3. Mississippi

II. Answer briefly:

1. Why does the Michigan motto mention a peninsula?

2. Explain the Latin derivation of "peninsula."

3. Describe the seal of Virginia.

III. Complete the chart below. Use a dictionary to check the meaning of the English words:

	English derivative	Meaning of English derivative	Latin word	Translation of Latin
1.	amenity	_____	_____	_____
2.	sic	_____	_____	_____
3.	armament	_____	_____	_____

Motto Review Exercise #2

I. Match:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. ___ imperium in imperio | A. thus always to tyrants |
| 2. ___ justitia omnibus | B. by courage and arms |
| 3. ___ regnat populus | C. nothing without God |
| 4. ___ nil sine Numine | D. an empire in an empire |
| 5. ___ labor vincit omnia | E. justice for all |
| 6. ___ virtute et armis | F. the people rule |
| 7. ___ montani semper liberi | G. he who transplanted sustains |
| 8. ___ qui transtulit sustinet | H. let the safety of the people be the supreme law |
| 9. ___ sic semper tyrannis | I. work conquers all |
| 10. ___ salus populi suprema lex esto | J. mountain people (are) always free |

II. Use **three** of these derivatives in sentences to show that you know their meanings: salubrious, amenity, numinous, invincible, regalia:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

III. Give one motto which focuses on each theme:

1. religion/God

2. freedom

3. justice

4. law

5. a special characteristic of the state

IV. California's motto is the Greek word *Eureka*, which means "I have discovered (it)."
What was discovered in California in 1848?



Fig. 14
Great Seal of the State of California.

School, College, and University Mottos

certa bonum certamen (Iona College)

Literal translation: fight the good fight

Certa is the command form of the verb *certo*, which means “to vie, fight, struggle.” You can see that *certa* is related to the noun *certamen*. Some Latin students like to participate in a quiz game called *certamen*.

crescat scientia, vita excolatur (University of Chicago)

Literal translation: let knowledge grow, let life be perfected

We saw *crescit* meaning “it grows” in *crescit eundo*, the motto of New Mexico, so *crescat* here is easy to remember. *Vita*, the Latin word for life, gives us the English words “vital” and “vitamin.”

Dei sub numine viget (Princeton University)

Literal translation: under the providence of God it flourishes

If you are **vigorous**, you are flourishing!

eruditio et religio (Duke University)

Literal translation: learning and religion

“Erudition” means “learning” in English.

Exercises:

I. Fill in the missing Latin word. Then translate the whole motto:

1. certa _____ certamen.

2. crescat _____ , _____ excolatur.

3. Dei sub numine _____.

4. _____ et religio.

II. Give the meaning and the Latin root for each of these English words:

English derivative	Meaning of English derivative	Latin word
1. vital	_____	_____
2. vigorous	_____	_____
3. erudition	_____	_____

III. Answer briefly:

Does your school have a motto?

A. If it has a Latin motto, translate it. Find out who chose it and why.

B. If not, make up a motto and explain why you picked it.

ex scientia tridens (US Naval Academy)

Literal translation: from knowledge the trident

More common meaning: power over the sea from knowledge

To understand this motto you need to know that *scientia* in Latin means “knowledge” in general, not just knowledge of specific subjects like Biology and Chemistry. Similarly, the three-pronged trident, which is the symbol of Neptune, god of the sea, here clearly symbolizes power over the sea.

lux et veritas (Yale University)

Literal translation: light and truth

Lux, which means “light,” is often part of mottoes of schools and colleges because it symbolizes the power of education to lighten the darkness of ignorance. The Latin word *lux* has other forms in which the *x* changes to a *c*. This helps us understand a word like “translucent,” which means “allowing light to enter.” *Veritas* or “truth” is another favorite theme of school mottoes. You may know the English word “veracious,” which means “truthful.”

lux fiat (Albion College, Alfred College)

Literal translation: let there be light

We just saw *lux* in the motto of Yale, and here we have an echo of the words from the book of Genesis. It is interesting that “fiat” is a verb in Latin but a noun in English, which means an “order” or “decree.”

ministrare quam ministrari (Wellesley College)

Literal translation: to serve rather than to be served

Notice that changing the final *-e* of *ministrare* to an *-i* changes the verb from an active to a passive infinitive.



Fig. 15
Neptune with his trident.

Exercises:

I. Fill in the missing Latin word. Then translate the whole motto:

1. ex _____ tridens

2. lux et _____

3. _____ fiat

4. ministrare quam _____.

II. Give the meaning and the Latin root for each of these English words:

English derivative	Meaning of English derivative	Latin word
1. veracious	_____	_____
2. science	_____	_____
3. fiat	_____	_____

III. Answer briefly:

1. What does a trident look like? (You may draw one.) What Roman god had a trident as his symbol? Why is a trident an appropriate symbol for the U.S. Naval Academy?

2. Why would a bumper sticker on the car belonging to a Lacrosse player from Yale read *LAX et Veritas*?

Numen lumen (University of Wisconsin)

Literal translation: God (is) light

Remember that *numen* meant “God” or “Providence” in the motto of Colorado, *nil sine Numine*, “nothing without God”? If you do, it will be easy for you to remember that *numen* means “God” in this motto. *Lumen* is also an interesting word choice. It means “light,” but it refers to lamplight while *lux* is daylight. “Lumen” is actually an English word for a unit of measurement used for light emission. “Luminous” in English means “bright” or “shining.”

respice, adspice, prospice (City College of New York)

Literal translation: look to the past, look to the present, look to the future

These three commands seem to sum up the purpose of education. If you remove the prefix of each word, the root *-spice* meaning “look” is left. This root comes into English in words like “conspicuous,” which means “obvious.”

terras irradiant (Amherst College)

Literal translation: they will light up the lands

You can see that the English word “radiant,” which means “shining,” is related to *irradiant*. It is interesting that this motto still has the theme of light even though it does not include either *lux* or *lumen*.

veritas (Harvard University)

Literal translation: truth

“Verity” meaning an “established truth,” like “veracious,” is an English derivative of *veritas*. If you read the Harry Potter books, you may remember a potion called “veritaserum,” which makes people tell the truth.

Exercises:

I. Fill in the missing Latin word. Then translate the whole motto:

1. Numen _____

2. Respice, adspice, _____

3. terras _____

II. Give the meaning and the Latin root for each of these English words:

	English derivative	Meaning of English derivative	Latin word
1.	luminous	_____	_____
2.	conspicuous	_____	_____
3.	verity	_____	_____

III. Answer briefly:

1. What is the difference between *lux* and *lumen*?

2. Why should students look to the present? the past? the future?

veritas vos liberabit (Johns Hopkins University)

Literal translation: the truth shall make you free.

This familiar phrase makes a perfect motto for a university where students and scholars seek truth.

vox clamantis in deserto (Dartmouth College)

Literal translation: a voice of (one) crying in the desert

In the New Testament this phrase describes John the Baptist who announced the arrival of Jesus. You can see that “acclamation” in English is related to *clamantis*. “Acclamation” means a “shout of approval.”

aut disce aut discede (Winchester College)

Literal translation: either learn or leave

This motto from an English school sounds a bit harsh! Notice that “college” here does not mean post secondary school. Rather it refers to what we call a high school. In Latin *aut...aut* means “either...or.” You may remember the phrase *Docendo discitur*, “one learns by teaching.”

festina lente (Madeira School)

Literal translation: make haste slowly

This expression is associated with the Emperor Augustus who changed the whole Roman system of government over a period of many years. While the phrase may seem to be a paradox, we really are saying the same thing when we say, “Haste makes waste.”

fortiter, feliciter, fideliter (Episcopal High School)

Literal translation: bravely, happily, faithfully

These three adverbs rhyme! Notice that they all end in *-ter*; another adverbial ending is *-e* as you can see in the Madeira motto *Festina lente*. It is interesting that each of the roots of these adverbs gives us an English derivative: “fortitude” means “bravery” or “courage,” “felicity” means “happiness,” and “fidelity” means “faithfulness.”

Exercises:

I. Fill in the missing Latin word. Then translate the whole motto:

1. Veritas vos _____

2. _____ lente

3. Vox _____ in deserto

4. Fortiter, feliciter, _____.

II. Give the meaning and the Latin root for each of these English words:

English derivative	Meaning of English derivative	Latin word
1. acclamation	_____	_____
2. felicity	_____	_____
3. fortitude	_____	_____
4. fidelity	_____	_____

III. Answer briefly:

1. Explain the paradox in *festina lente*.

2. Can you guess what Magnavox, a brand of audio equipment, means?

Mottoes of Organizations

curare (11th Medical Regiment)

Literal translation: to care for

descende ad terram (507th Parachute Regiment)

Literal translation: descend to earth

facta non verba (12th Field Artillery Regiment)

Literal translation: deeds not words

Exercises:

I. Translate each Latin word:

1. **curare** _____
2. **terram** _____
3. **facta** _____
4. **verba** _____

II. Which of the mottoes on this page is most appropriate for the organization it represents? Why?

III. True or False (Hint: Find the Latin root(s) of the word in bold to help you with these statements.)

1. _____ If somebody is an **extraterrestrial**, he is from earth.
2. _____ A **verbose** individual says what he means in only a few words.

nunc aut numquam (497th Field Artillery Regiment)

Literal translation: now or never

semper fidelis (US Marine Corps)

Literal translation: always faithful

semper paratus (US Coast Guard)

Literal translation: always prepared

Exercises:

I. Translate each Latin word:

1. nunc _____
2. numquam _____
3. aut _____
4. semper _____
5. fidelis _____

II. Answer briefly:

1. How is the word *fidelis* sometimes abbreviated? (Hint: Name a march by John Philip Sousa.)

2. What state motto includes the word *semper*?

III. True or False (Hint: Find the Latin root(s) of the word in bold to help you with these statements.)

1. _____ "I am not interested in gossip," said the **quidnunc**.
2. _____ A journalist who reports on an event with accuracy is said to have **fidelity** to the truth.

arbor potestas (US Forestry Service)

Literal translation: tree power

citius, altius, fortius (Olympic Games)

Literal translation: more quickly, more highly, more bravely

More common meaning: quicker, higher, braver

de minimis maximum (Atomic Energy Commission)

Literal translation: from the smallest (particles) (comes) the greatest (power)

fare fac (Fairfax County, Virginia)

Literal translation: say (it), do (it)!

urbs in horto (City of Chicago)

Literal translation: a city in a garden

Exercises:

I. Translate each Latin word:

1. arbor _____

2. potestas _____

II. Answer briefly:

1. Why do you think Lord Fairfax chose this motto? (Hint: say the Latin words aloud.)

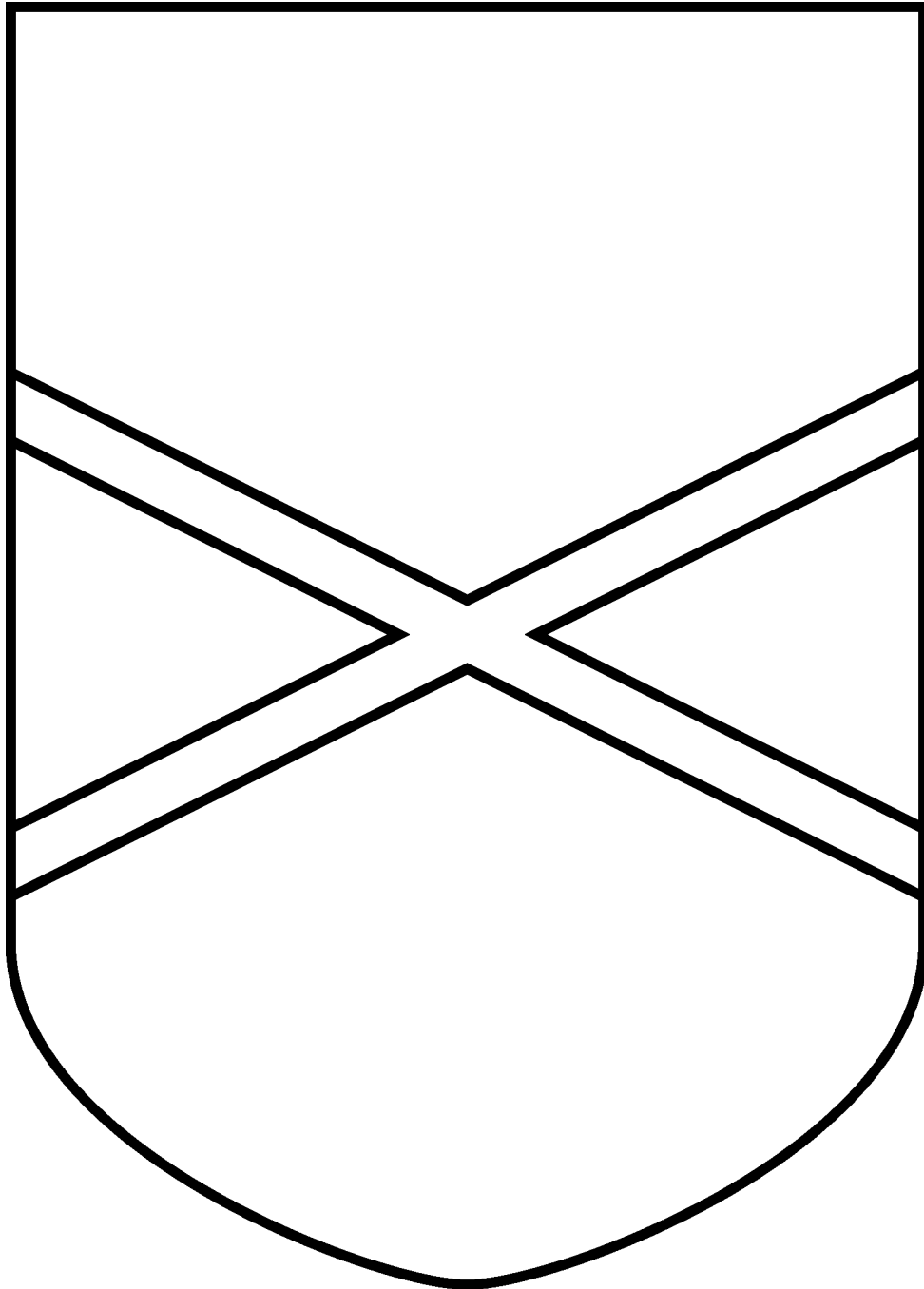
2. Explain the motto of the Atomic Energy Commission.

III. True or False (Hint: Find the Latin root of the word in bold to help you with these statements.)

1. _____ In **horticulture** class students learn about bones and skeletons.

2. _____ An **urban** dweller lives in a city.

Pick one of the organizational mottos and design a shield that fits the Latin phrase:



Family Mottoes

fortes fortuna juvat (Douglas)

Literal translation: fortune helps the brave

noli irritare leonem (Cooper, Walsh)

Literal translation: do not irritate a lion

noli mentiri (Notley)

Literal translation: don't lie

noli me tangere (Graeme, Graham, Willett)

Literal translation: don't touch me

non mihi, sed Deo et regi (Booth, Warren)

Literal translation: not for me, but for God and for king

non nobis, sed omnibus (Ash, Ashe)

Literal translation: not for us, but for all

non vi, sed mente (Lincolne)

Literal translation: not by force, but by mind

Exercises:

I. Translate each Latin word:

1. leonem _____

2. mentiri _____

3. tangere _____

II. Why do you think the Notley family chose their motto? (Hint: say the English translation aloud.)

III. Answer the questions based upon the meaning of the Latin root that is in bold type.

1. Name something that is **tangible**. _____

2. Name something that could be described as **regal**. _____

pro Deo et ecclesia (Bisshopp)

Literal translation: for God and Church

pro patria vivere et mori (Grattan)

Literal translation: to live and die for (one's) country

pro lusu et praeda (MacMoran)

Literal translation: for sport and spoil

quod Deus vult fiet (Dimsdale)

Literal translation: what God wants will be

quae recta sequor (Campbell)

Literal translation: what (things) (are) right I follow

More common meaning: I follow the things that are right.

quod sors fert ferimus (Clayton)

Literal translation: what fate brings we bear

Exercises:

I. Translate each Latin word:

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| 1. ecclesia | _____ | 5. sequor | _____ |
| 2. mori | _____ | 6. sors | _____ |
| 3. vult | _____ | 7. fert...ferimus | _____ |
| 4. fiet | _____ | 8. praeda | _____ |

II. Which motto would you pick for your family? Why?

III. Answer the questions based upon the meaning of the Latin root that is in bold:

- Name something that should be **sequ**ential to something else. _____
- Name something that might need to be **rect**ified. _____

CHAPTER FOUR

Mottoes Review



Fig. 16
Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

Review Exercises: Mottoes

Here are the three mottoes of the **United States**. Translate all three mottoes.

e pluribus unum = _____

annuit coeptis = _____

novus ordo seclorum = _____

Now, pick one of the three mottoes, and write two sentences telling why this phrase fits our country:

What do these Latin words mean?

1. coeptis _____

2. unum _____

3. novus _____

Here are twelve **state** mottoes. Translate each motto:

1. ad astra per aspera _____
2. alis volat propriis _____
3. animis opibusque parati _____
4. dum spiro spero _____
5. audemus jura nostra defendere _____
6. cedant arma togae _____
7. crescit eundo _____
8. Deo gratias habeamus _____
9. dirigo _____
10. ditat Deus _____
11. ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem _____
12. esse quam videri _____

Now, match the motto with its state:

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. ___ ad astra per aspera | A. Massachusetts |
| 2. ___ alis volat propriis | B. North Carolina |
| 3. ___ animis opibusque parati | C. Maine |
| 4. ___ dum spiro spero | D. New Mexico |
| 5. ___ audemus jura nostra defendere | E. Kentucky |
| 6. ___ cedant arma togae | F. Alabama |
| 7. ___ crescit eundo | G. Wyoming |
| 8. ___ Deo gratias habeamus | H. Arizona |
| 9. ___ dirigo | I. Oregon |
| 10. ___ ditat Deus | J. Kansas |
| 11. ___ ense petit placidam sub
libertate quietem | K. South Carolina |
| 12. ___ esse quam videri | |

Here are 14 more **state** mottoes. Translate each motto:

1. esto perpetuo _____
2. excelsior _____
3. imperium in imperio _____
4. justitia omnibus _____
5. labor omnia vincit _____
6. montani semper liberi _____
7. nil sine Numine _____
8. qui transtulit sustinet _____
9. regnat populus _____
10. salus populi suprema lex esto _____
11. scuto bonae voluntatis tuae coronasti nos _____
12. si quaeris peninsulam amoenam, circumspice _____
13. sic semper tyrannis _____
14. virtute et armis _____

Now, name the state whose motto fits the description below:

1. speaks of tyrants: _____
2. mentions a peninsula: _____
3. has the word for shield: _____
4. refers to justice: _____
5. uses the word for empire twice: _____
6. uses a comparative adjective (ends in -er in English, -ior in Latin): _____

Here are 17 **college or school** mottoes. Translate the bold word in each:

1. certa bonum **certamen** (Iona College, NY) _____
2. crescat **scientia**, vita excolatur (University of Chicago, IL) _____
3. **Dei** sub numine viget (Princeton University, NJ) _____
4. **eruditio** et religio (Duke University, NC) _____
5. ex scientia **tridens** (Naval Academy, MD) _____
6. **lux** et veritas (Yale University, CT) _____
7. lux **fiat** (Albion College, MI; Alfred College, NY) _____
8. **ministrare** quam ministrari (Wellesley College, MA) _____
9. numen **lumen** (University of Wisconsin) _____
10. respice, adspice, **prospice** (City College of New York) _____
11. terras **irradient** (Amherst College, MA) _____
12. **veritas** (Harvard University, MA) _____
13. veritas vos **liberabit** (Johns Hopkins University, MD) _____
14. **vox** clamantis in deserto (Dartmouth College, MA) _____
15. **festina** lente (Madeira School, VA) _____
16. aut **disce** aut discede (Winchester College, U.K.) _____
17. **fortiter, feliciter, fideliter** (Episcopal High School, VA) _____

Here are 10 mottoes of **organizations or a family**. Translate each one:

1. curare (11th Medical Regiment) _____
2. descende ad terram (507th Parachute Regiment) _____
3. nunc aut numquam (497th Field Artillery) _____
4. semper fidelis (U.S. Marine Corps) _____
5. semper paratus (U.S. Coastguard) _____
6. arbor potestas (U.S. Forestry Service) _____
7. citius, altius, fortius (Olympics) _____
8. fare fac (Fairfax County, VA) _____
9. urbs in horto (Chicago, IL) _____
10. noli mentiri (Notley family) _____

Give the Latin words for the following:

1. city _____
2. garden _____
3. tree _____
4. always _____
5. now _____
6. never _____
7. power _____
8. faithful _____
9. prepared _____
10. faster _____

CHAPTER FIVE

Abbreviations



Fig. 17
S. P. Q. R.

Common Latin Abbreviations

Fill in the chart below. This information was presented in Chapter One, *Sententiae Latinae*. Look up the answers there if you have forgotten the Latin words or the English translations.

		Latin words	English translations
1.	A.M.		
2.	P.M.		
3.	p.s.		
4.	etc.		
5.	A.D.		
6.	e.g.		
7.	i.e.		
8.	N.B.		
9.	ad lib.		
10.	M.O.		
11.	pro tem.		
12.	vs., v.		
13.	C.V.		
14.	R.I.P.		
15.	stat.		
16.	lb.		

Exercises: Common Latin Abbreviations

Fill in the blank with the abbreviation which best translates the phrase in parenthesis:

1. Please check the label before you buy the flour: we need a ten _____ (**pound**) bag
2. When you apply for a position, you must submit a _____ (**resume**).
3. The game today is Army _____ (**against**) Navy.
4. The detectives recognized the robber's _____ (**way of operating**).
5. Before you take a test, you should organize your notes, make flashcards, _____ (**and the rest**).
6. The youngest children, _____ (**that is**) the first grade, will be first in line.
7. Early aviators, _____ (**for example**), Amelia Earhart, took great risks.
8. The speaker who lost his notes was forced to give his remarks _____ (**without rehearsal**).
9. The meeting will begin at 9:00 _____ (**in the morning**) and should finish by 3:00 _____ (**in the afternoon**).
10. On August 24, _____ (**CE**) 79, Mt. Vesuvius erupted.
11. After signing the letter, I added a _____ (**after the writing**).
12. The notice on the bulletin board was headed _____ (**note well**).
13. The Senate will elect a president _____ (**temporarily**) tonight.
14. The doctors hurried to the emergency room when they heard _____ (**immediately**).
15. The children decorating for Halloween made cardboard gravestones with _____ (**rest in peace**) painted in large letters.

Give the Latin word or phrase and its abbreviation for each of the following:

1. before noon _____
2. after noon _____
3. after the writing _____
4. and the rest _____
5. in the year of the Lord _____
6. for example _____
7. that is, in other words _____
8. pound _____
9. immediately _____
10. rest in peace _____
11. resume _____
12. against _____
13. temporarily _____
14. way of operating _____
15. without rehearsal _____
16. note well _____

More Latin Abbreviations

Fill in the chart below:

		Latin words	English translations
1.	ca., c.		
2.	cf.		
3.	et al.		
4.	ibid.		
5.	n.p.o.		
6.	op.cit.		
7.	Q.E.D.		
8.	q.v.		
9.	Rx		
10.	s.l.		
11.	S.P.Q.R.		
12.	verb. sap.		
13.	viz.		

Exercises: More Latin Abbreviations

Match:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. ____ The Senate and People of Rome | A. Q.E.D. |
| 2. ____ work cited | B. et al. |
| 3. ____ that which had to be proved | C. Rx |
| 4. ____ and the others | D. n.p.o |
| 5. ____ take | E. cf. |
| 6. ____ nothing by mouth | F. viz. |
| 7. ____ namely | G. s.l. |
| 8. ____ compare | H. verb. sap. |
| 9. ____ without a place (of publication) | I. op.cit. |
| 10. ____ word to the wise | J. S.P.Q.R. |

Assume you are doing research for a report. Answer these questions briefly:

1. When can you use *ibid.* in a footnote?

2. When can you use *op.cit.* in a footnote?

3. What does *et al.* mean in the list of authors of a book you have consulted?

4. What does *viz.* mean in an article you have read?

5. What does *cf.* mean at the end of an encyclopedia article you took notes on?

CHAPTER SIX

Abbreviations Review



Fig. 18
Rx.

Review Exercise: Latin Abbreviations

Fill in the chart below:

Latin words		English translations	
1.	ad lib.		
2.	A.D.		
3.	A.M.		
4.	ca., c.		
5.	cf.		
6.	C.V.		
7.	et al.		
8.	etc.		
9.	e.g.		
10.	ibid.		
11.	i.e.		
12.	lb.		
13.	M.O.		
14.	N.B.		
15.	n.p.o.		
16.	op.cit.		
17.	P.M.		
18.	P.S.		
19.	pro tem.		
20.	Q.E.D.		
21.	q.v.		
22.	R.I.P.		
23.	Rx		
24.	s.l.		
25.	S.P.Q.R.		
26.	stat.		
27.	vs., v.		
28.	verb. sap.		
29.	viz.		

I. Circle the abbreviation in boldface type which correctly completes each sentence:

1. The authors of the math textbook are listed as Webster, Williams, **et al.** / **etc.**
2. The note on the patient's chart to prevent her from eating or drinking read **n.p.o.** / **stat.**
3. The Senate elected a chairman **ad lib.** / **pro tem.**
4. A great novel, **i.e.** / **e.g.** *Pride and Prejudice*, often draws on the author's own experience.
5. One book in my bibliography is listed **q.v.** / **s.l.**
6. The new coach, **viz.** / **cf.** Mr. Brown, makes everyone run laps.
7. The math student wrote **S.P.Q.R.** / **Q.E.D** beside each answer on the quiz.
8. The job applicant was asked to submit a current **M.O./ C.V.**
9. You should arrive at the airport at 6:00 **A.M.** / **A.D.**
10. The abbreviation **N.B.** / **lb.** highlighted the most important part of the new assignment.

II. Give the English meaning of each abbreviation you selected as an answer in exercise I:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

CHAPTER SEVEN

Games & Projects

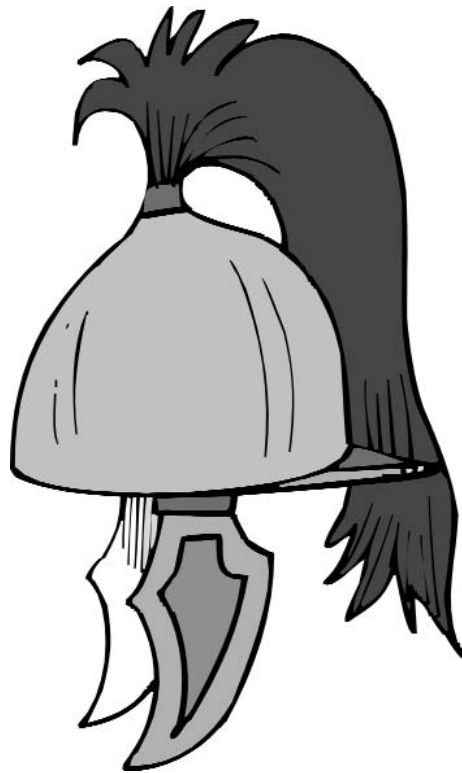


Fig. 19
Roman helmet.

Sententiae Certamen

Certamen is a team competition. Each team may have two, three or four players. There should also be a student spotter. When the teacher reads a question, the spotter recognizes the player who slapped his desk and raised his hand first. If the student who was recognized knows the answer, his team receives ten points, and his whole team may discuss the answers to the bonus questions that are each worth five points. If the student does not answer correctly, the teacher will read the question again for the other teams. If there is a tie when the teacher reads a toss-up question, a student from each team may write the answer, and both teams can receive credit. The bonus questions in this case can be discussed quietly by both teams, and both can receive credit for a correct, written answer. Below you will find a sample round of certamen questions.

1. You find Latin phrases everywhere you go. What does your theater program list under *dramatis personae*?
 Bonus 1: What does “*exeunt omnes*” mean?
 Bonus 2: What Latin word often marks a door to the outside of an auditorium?
2. On the dollar bill, what does *annuit coeptis* mean?
 Bonus 1: Translate *novus ordo seclorum*.
 Bonus 2: Give the Roman author of the phrase *novus ordo seclorum*.
3. What is the motto of the United States?
 Bonus 1: What did *e pluribus unum* mean to the Romans?
 Bonus 2: What does *e pluribus unum* mean to Americans?
4. An attorney may do work *pro bono publico*. What sort of work is that?
 Bonus 1: What is an *amicus curiae* brief?
 Bonus 2: What is meant by the phrase *corpus delicti*?
5. If you graduate from college *summa cum laude*, what have you done?
 Bonus 1: Translate *magna cum laude*.
 Bonus 2: Give the Latin root word of the English word “valedictorian.”
6. In Rome, a foster mother was called an *alma mater*. What is an *alma mater* today?
 Bonus 1: What is a woman graduate of a school or college called?
 Bonus 2: Make *alumna* plural.
7. In history, dates can be given as B.C. or A.D. Give the Latin and the English for which A.D. stands.
 Bonus 1: What does *circa* mean?
 Bonus 2: How do you abbreviate *circa*?
8. To what period of U.S. history does the term *antebellum* refer?
 Bonus 1: Translate *casus belli*.
 Bonus 2: Give an example of a *casus belli* from American history.

9. Let's think about abbreviations. Give the Latin and the English for *e.g.*
 Bonus 1: Give the Latin and the English for *i.e.*
 Bonus 2: Give the Latin and the English for *A.M.*
10. Give the Latin and the English for *N.B.*
 Bonus 1: Give the Latin and the English for *P.S.*
 Bonus 2: Give the Latin and the English for *Q.E.D.*
11. Give the Latin and the English for *M.O.*
 Bonus 1: How do you say way of living in Latin?
 Bonus 2: Give the meaning of the English word "vivacious."
12. If you are the *ne plus ultra*, what are you?
 Bonus 1: If you do something *sub rosa*, how have you done it?
 Bonus 2: If you are *sui generis*, what are you?
13. Would you prefer to be *non compos mentis* or to have a *mens sana in corpore sano*?
 Bonus 1: Would you prefer to be a *rara avis* or a *persona non grata*?
 Bonus 2: If someone is caught "*in flagrante*," how is he caught?
14. Translate the phrase: *caveat emptor*.
 Bonus 1: Translate the phrase: *cave canem*.
 Bonus 2: What is an emporium?
15. Legally, a school stands *in loco parentis* to its students. What does that mean?
 Bonus 1: What is a *verbum sapienti*?
 Bonus 2: Translate *docendo discitur*.
16. The poet Horace said, "*Carpe diem!*" Translate the phrase.
 Bonus 1: Vergil said, "*Arma virumque cano.*" Translate.
 Bonus 2: Who said, "*Cogito ergo sum?*"
17. Caesar said, "*Veni, vidi, vici.*" Translate the phrase.
 Bonus 1: Translate Caesar's dying words: "*Et tu Brute.*"
 Bonus 2: What emperor's motto was *festina lente*?
18. If you were elected *in absentia*, how were you elected?
 Bonus 1: What does *ex officio* mean?
 Bonus 2: What does *ad hoc* mean?
19. Who said, "*Morituri te salutamus?*"
 Bonus 1: Who said, "*Peccavi?*"
 Bonus 2: Who saw a vision with the words, "*In hoc signo vinces?*"
20. What's the difference between a *lapsus linguae* and a *lapsus memoriae*?
 Bonus 1: What is the difference between a *liber* and *libra*?
 Bonus 2: Translate *ex libris*.

21. What is *in vitro* fertilization?
Bonus 1: What does it mean if a work of literature begins *in medias res*?
Bonus 2: What does *in situ* mean?
22. What does *nihil ex nihilo fit* mean?
Bonus 1: What does *in vacuo* mean?
Bonus 2: What does *in toto* mean?
23. If the Senate adjourns *sine die*, what happens?
Bonus 1: Who is the president *pro tem.* of the Senate?
Bonus 2: What Roman orator said, "*O tempora, O mores!*"?
24. What is a *magnum opus*?
Bonus 1: Explain the phrase "*ars longa, vita brevis.*"
Bonus 2: Explain the phrase "*ars gratia artis.*"
25. This certamen has gone on *ad nauseam*. How long has it gone on?
Bonus 1: Translate *ad infinitum*.
Bonus 2: Translate *ab initio*.



Fig. 20
Magnum opus.

Poster Project

1. Pick a phrase you find interesting.
2. Make a poster with the phrase in Latin and an illustration. Make sure your Latin phrase stands out! You may put the English meaning on the front, but you do not have to include it if the meaning is clear from your illustration. Put your name on the back.

Nota Bene:

You do not have to use a full piece of poster board; a half size is fine. You may use pictures from magazines or clip art. Artistic ability does not matter, but creativity does! Think of clever ways to illustrate expressions like *tempus fugit*, *ex tempore*, or *tabula rasa*.



Fig. 21
Tempus fugit.

Motto Project

1. Pick a Latin motto you like.
2. Make a poster depicting a seal or shield with a Latin motto and its translation.

Nota Bene:

College catalogues, sweatshirts, notebooks, and websites are good sources. Ask your family for mottoes of schools they attended. Many schools and states have websites with images of their seals, but please do not simply print and color the image you find. Copy it! You may simplify the images if they are too complicated to draw.



Fig. 22
A model shield.

APPENDIX I

Sententiae

Latinae

ab ovo usque ad mala

ab initio

ad hoc

ad hominem

ad infinitum

ad libitum (ad lib.)

ad nauseam

alibi

alma mater

alter ego

alumnus, alumna

amicus curiae

annuit coeptis

anno Domini (A.D.)

Ante bellum

ante meridiem (A.M.)

arma virumque cano

ars gratia artis

ars longa, vita brevis

ave atque vale

bona fide

calvo turpius est nihil comato

carpe diem

casus belli

cave canem

caveat emptor

circa (ca., c.)

cogito ergo sum

confer (cf.)

cornucopia

corpus delicti

credo

cui bono

cum grano salis

cum laude

curriculum vitae (C.V.)

de facto

de gustibus non est disputandum

de jure

de minimis non curat lex

de mortuis nil nisi bonum	in flagrante delicto
de novo	in hoc signo vinces
deus ex machina	in loco parentis
docendo discitur	in medias res
dramatis personae	in memoriam
dulce et decorum est pro patria mori	in re
e pluribus unum	in situ
emeritus, emerita	in toto
errare humanum est	in utero
et alia (et al.)	in vacuo
et cetera (etc.)	in vino veritas
et tu Brute?	in vitro
ex cathedra	ipso facto
ex libris	lapsus calami (lapsus pennae)
ex nihilo nihil fit	lapsus linguae
ex officio	lapsus memoriae
ex post facto	libra (lb.)
ex tempore	locum tenens
exempli gratia (e.g.)	magna cum laude
exeat	magnum opus
exit	mandamus
exeunt omnes	mea culpa
festina lente	memento mori
fiat lux	mens sana in corpore sano
finis	mirabile dictu
genius loci	modus operandi (M.O.)
habeas corpus	modus vivendi
homo sapiens	morituri te salutamus
ibidem (ibid.)	ne plus ultra
id est (i.e.)	nemo est supra leges
ignis fatuus	nihil per os (n.p.o.)
ignoramus	nil desperandum
ignorantia legis neminem excusat	nolo contendere
in absentia	non compos mentis
in extremis	non sequitur

nota bene (N.B.)	rebus
novus ordo seclorum	recipe (Rx)
O tempora, O mores	res ipsa loquitur
onus probandi	resquiescat in pace (R.I.P.)
opus citatum (op. cit.)	sanctum sanctorum
panem et circenses	Senatus Populusque Romanus (S.P.Q.R.)
pater familias	seriatim
pax vobiscum	sic
peccavi	sic transit gloria mundi
per annum	sine die
per capita	sine loco (s.l.)
per centum (percent)	sine qua non
per diem	stare decisis
per se	statim (stat.)
persona non grata	status quo ante
placebo	stet
pons asinorum	sub poena
post hoc, ergo propter hoc	sub rosa
post meridiem (P.M.)	sui generis
post mortem	sui juris
post scriptum (P.S.)	summa cum laude
prima facie	tabula rasa
pro bono publico	tempus fugit
pro forma	terra firma
pro rata	terra incognita
pro se	ultima Thule
pro tempore (pro tem.)	vade mecum
quis custodiet ipsos custodes?	veni, vidi, vici
qui tacet consentit	verbatim
quidnunc	verbum (sat) sapienti (sapientibus)
quid pro quo	versus (vs., v.)
quod erat demonstrandum (Q.E.D.)	vice versa
quod vide (q.v.)	videlicet (viz.)
rara avis	viva voce
re	vivat

APPENDIX II

Mottoes

The United States:

e pluribus unum
annuit coeptis
novus ordo seclorum

States:

ad astra per aspera (Kansas)
alis volat propriis (Oregon)
animis opibusque parati (South Carolina)
audemus jura nostra defendere (Alabama)
cedant arma togae (Wyoming)
crescit eundo (New Mexico)
deo gratias habeamus (Kentucky)
dirigo (Maine)
ditat Deus (Arizona)
dum spiro spero (South Carolina)
ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem (Massachusetts)
esse quam videre (North Carolina)

esto perpetuo (Idaho)
excelsior (New York)
imperium in imperio (Ohio)
justitia omnibus (D.C.)
labor omnia vincit (Oklahoma)
montani semper liberi (West Virginia)
nil sine numine (Colorado)
qui transtulit sustinet (Connecticut)
regnat populus (Arkansas)
salus populi suprema lex esto (Missouri)
scuto bonae voluntatis tuae coronasti nos (Maryland)
si quaeris peninsulam amoenam, circumspice (Michigan)
sic semper tyrannis (Virginia)
virtute et armis (Mississippi)

Colleges and universities:

certa bonum certamen (Iona College, NY)
crescat scientia, vita excolatur (University of Chicago, IL)

Dei sub numine viget (Princeton University, NJ)
 eruditio et religio (Duke University, NC)
 ex scientia tridens (Naval Academy, MD)
 lux et veritas (Yale University, CT)
 lux fiat (Albion College, MI; Alfred College, NY)
 ministrare quam ministrari (Wellesley College, MA)
 Numen lumen (University of Wisconsin)
 respice, adspice, prospice (City College of New York)
 terras irradiant (Amherst College, MA)
 veritas (Harvard University, MA)
 veritas vos liberabit (Johns Hopkins University, MD)
 vox clamantis in deserto (Dartmouth College, MA)

Schools:

aut disce aut discede (Winchester College, U.K.)
 festina lente (Madeira School, VA)
 fortiter, feliciter, fideliter (Episcopal High School, VA)

Military organizations:

curare (11th Medical Regiment)
 descende ad terram (507th Parachute Regiment)
 facta non verba (12th Field Artillery)
 nunc aut numquam (497th Field Artillery)
 semper fidelis (U.S. Marine Corps)
 semper paratus (U.S. Coastguard)

Other organizations:

arbor potestas (U.S. Forestry Service)
 citius, altius, fortius (Olympics)
 de minimis maximis (Atomic Energy Commission)
 fare fac (Fairfax County, VA)
 urbs in horto (Chicago, IL)

Families:

fortes fortuna juvat (Douglas)
 noli irritare leonem (Cooper, Walsh)
 noli mentiri (Notley)
 noli me tangere (Graeme, Graham, Willett)
 non nobis sed omnibus (Ash, Ashe)
 non mihi, sed Deo et regi (Booth, Warren)
 non vi, sed mente (Lincolne)
 pro Deo et ecclesia (Bisshopp)
 pro patria vivere et mori (Grattan)
 pro lusu et praeda (MacMoran)
 quod Deus vult fiet (Dimsdale)
 quae recta, sequor (Campbell)
 quod sors fert, ferimus (Clayton)

APPENDIX III

Abbreviations

1. ad lib. = ad libitum
2. A.D. = anno Domini
3. A.M. = ante meridiem
4. ca., c.. = circa
5. cf. = confer
6. C.V. = curriculum vitae
7. et al. = et alia
8. etc. = et cetera
9. e.g. = exempli gratia
10. ibid. = ibidem
11. i.e. = id est
12. lb = libra = pound
13. M.O. = modus operandi
14. N.B. = nota bene
15. n.p.o. = nil per os
16. op.cit. = opus citatum
17. P.M. = post meridiem
18. P.S. = post scriptum
18. pro tem. = pro tempore
19. Q.E.D. = quod erat demonstrandum
20. q.v. = quo vide
21. R.I.P. = resquiescat in pace
22. Rx = recipe
23. s.l. = sine loco
24. S.P.Q.R. = Senatus Populusque Romanus
25. stat. = statim
26. vs., v. = versus
27. verb.sap. = verbum sapientibus
28. viz. = videlicet

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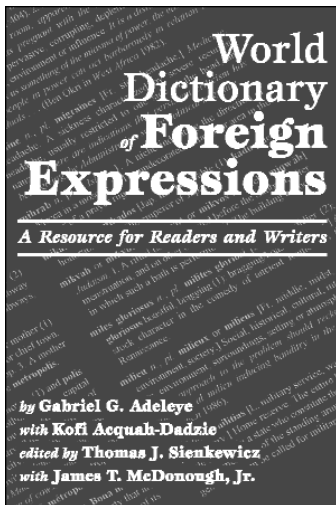
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