

# Amo Amas Amat: An Intro to Classic Latin

A Class for Yule Feast 12/09/2023 in the Canton of Hrothgeirsfjodr,  
Barony of Red Spears

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Roman numerals and root words absorbed into English will be our starting point for exploring some basics of the classic Latin language. We are surrounded by Latin words and numerals in today's world, and it still permeates the languages and cultures influenced by the Roman empire and trade routes.

Latin works differently than English. It is a language where

- Verbs have different endings for **conjugation: The inflection of Verbs to denote voice, mood, tense, number, and person**
- Nouns, Adjectives, Pronouns, and Participles have different endings are **declined to denote gender, number, and case**
- Those endings do the heavy lifting so word order is less important than in English

## **-X- Repeat: Amo Amas Amat Amamos Amatis Amant**

*Congratulations. You have just conjugated the Present tense of To Love in first, second and third person singular and plural. We what? OK, now let's try that again in English . . . Other tenses are beyond the scope of this class.*

### **Common Latin Plural Word Endings table from**

<https://knowadays.com/blog/a-proofreaders-guide-to-latin-plural-word-endings/> :

<b>Singular Ending</b>	<b>Plural Ending</b>	<b>Example</b>
-a	-ae	<i>Formula</i> → <i>Formulae</i>
-ex or -ix	-ices	<i>Appendix</i> → <i>Appendices</i>
-on or -um	-a	<i>Stadium</i> → <i>Stadia</i>
-us	-i	<i>Cactus</i> → <i>Cacti</i>



## Fake Latin: Printer's Filler Text

- Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat.
  - Ut wisi enim ad minim veniam.
  - Quis nostrud exerci tation ullamcorper.
  - Suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.
  - Generators and explanation:
    - <https://www.lipsum.com/>
    - <https://loremipsum.io/>
    - <https://getlorem.com/>
    - <https://www.webfx.com/tools/lorem-ipsum-generator/>
    - <https://onwords.substack.com/p/lorem-ipsum-has-a-meaning> Blog: On Words and Up Words: "Lorem Ipsum" Has a Meaning - Literally, it means, "[Su]ffering itself," but there's more to it than that! By Jack Shepherd, posted Jan 22, 2023 (Accessed November 2023)
    - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lorem\\_ipsum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lorem_ipsum)

## Math and Counting: Roman Numerals



**Find the anachronism and other problem(s) in this picture.**

Image Credit: [Mah Rabu מה רבו](#) of an icon in the [Monastery of the Cross](#), an 11th-century Eastern Orthodox monastery built by the Georgians near the Nayot neighborhood of Jerusalem.

<http://mahrabu.blogspot.com/2007/11/monastery-of-cross.html>

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- Clocks, Years, and a few other spots still use Roman numerals
  - *The rest of this section is from the May-June 2022, AS LVII issue of the Spearpoint (Barony of Red Spears newsletter), SCA 101: Roman Numerals:*
  - Year of the society (Anno Societatis). Awards scrolls and some other dates you will see around the SCA use A.S. for Anno Societatis followed by the roman numerals for the current year.
    - For 57 that would be LVII.
    - For 58 that would be LVIII
    - For 59 that would be LIX. Wait, why did the pattern change?
  - A quick and handy guide to the seven roman numerals:
    - I or i The number 1
    - V or v The number 5
    - X or x The number 10
    - L The number 50
    - C The number 100
    - D The number 500
    - M The number 1000
  - Addition and Subtraction
    - When a smaller numeral appears to the left before a larger one, subtract the smaller from the larger.
    - When a smaller numeral appears to the right after a larger one, add the smaller to the larger.
  - The number 4 could be written IV or IIII and the number 6 would be written VI. Except for IIII, numerals usually only get up to three repetitions in a sequence.
  - Examples of numeral-less-than- the next numeral:
    - CM is taking 100 from 1,000 to get 900.
    - XL is taking 10 from 50 to get 40
    - IX is taking 1 from 10 to get 9
  - When deciphering long strings of numerals to get larger numbers, take a look at the whole group.
    - Does a large value numeral appear in the middle somewhere?
    - The smaller value numeral immediately before the large value will be subtracted from the larger value.

- A big value numeral is added to the smaller numeral to the right following the larger numeral, so calculate XI as “ten and one is eleven.”
- **What Common Era years do these roman numerals represent?**
  - A. MCMLXVIII
  - B. MDLVIII
  - C. MCMXC
  - D. CDX
  - E. MCDXCII
  - F. MMXXIII



## Science and Engineering and Law and Medicine etc.

- 21 letters and two Greek letters: For a discussion see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin\\_alphabet#Classical\\_Latin\\_alphabet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_alphabet#Classical_Latin_alphabet)

Classical Latin alphabet																							
Letter	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	V	X	Y	Z
Latin name (majus)	Á	BÉ	CÉ	DÉ	É	EF	GÉ	HÁ	I	KÁ	EL	EM	EN	Ó	PÉ	QV	ER	ES	TÉ	V	IX	I GRAECA	ZÉTA
Transliteration	ā	bē	cē	dē	ē	ef	gē	hā	ī	kā	el	em	en	ō	pē	qū	er	es	tē	ū	ix	ī Graeca	zēta
Latin pronunciation (IPA)	a:	be:	ke:	de:	e:	ɛf	ge:	ha:	i:	ka:	ɛl	ɛm	ɛn	o:	pe:	ku:	ɛr	ɛs	te:	u:	iks	i:ˈgraika	ˈdze:ta

- Names and Phrases
  - [white oak](#), *Quercus alba*
  - [doubtful cone](#), *Conus ambiguus*;
  - [western honey bee](#), *Apis mellifera*
  - [flying dragon](#), *Draco volans*

For a longer list of scientific classification names see

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Latin\\_and\\_Greek\\_words\\_commonly\\_used\\_in\\_systematic\\_names](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Latin_and_Greek_words_commonly_used_in_systematic_names)

- [ad nauseam](#) to sickness, i.e., "to the point of disgust". Sometimes used as a humorous alternative to *ad infinitum*. An *argumentum ad nauseam* is a [logical fallacy](#) in which erroneous proof is proffered by prolonged repetition of the argument, i. e., the argument is repeated so many times that persons are "sick of it".
- [ad infinitum](#) to [infinity](#), i.e., enduring forever. Used to designate a property which repeats in all cases in [mathematical proof](#). Also used in [philosophical contexts](#) to mean "repeating in all cases"
- *id est* (**i.e.**) that is (literally "it is"): "That is (to say)" in the sense of "that means" and "which means", or "in other words", "namely", or sometimes "in this case", depending on the context
- [et cetera](#) (**etc.**, &c.) and the rest = *et*, meaning "and," plus *cetera*, or "the rest"
  - **Ampersand:** The term ampersand is a [corruption](#) of *and* (&) [per se and](#), which literally means "(the character) & by itself (is the word) and". The symbol & is derived from the [ligature](#) of ET or et, which is the Latin word for "and". — Geoffrey Glaister, *Glossary of the Book*<sup>[2]</sup>
  - [Glaister, Geoffrey Ashall](#) (1960). *Glossary of the Book*. London: [George Allen & Unwin](#). cited in Caflisch, Max. "[The ampersand](#)". *Adobe Fonts*. [Adobe Systems](#). Archived from [the original](#) on 13 January 2013. Retrieved 23 December 2012.
  - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ampersand>
- [et alii](#), [et aliae](#), [et alia](#) (**et al.**) and others; used similarly to *et cetera* ("and the rest") to denote names that, usually for the sake of space, are unenumerated/omitted
- [exempli gratia](#) (**e.g.**) for the sake of example, for example
- *Exeunt*, they leave

For a longer list of phrases used in English speaking countries see:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Latin\\_phrases\\_\(full\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Latin_phrases_(full))

- Plumbs

- Plumbum = metallic lead
- Plumb line: a line with a lead bob for determining water depth or determining vertical on an upright surface
- Pb = the abbreviation for Lead in the periodic table



## More Vocabulary

There are thousands of English words and phrases derived from Latin, two thirds of English by some estimates. Here are some more common words and terms

- **Ad hoc** - ad (to/for) and hoc (this), which translates to “for this” or “for this situation”
- **Agenda** - “things to be done.” Its singular form in Latin is *agendum* \*
- **Alibi** - “elsewhere”
- **Altruism** - from Latin word *alter*, meaning “other.”
- **Alumnus / Alumna**, plural forms are Alumni / Alumnae
- **Bona fide** - “in good faith”
- **Carpe diem** - literally translates to “Pluck the day”
- **Data / Datum**
- **Ergo** - “therefore”
- **Facsimile** - An identical copy; abbreviated to “fax”, from *fac* (the imperative form of *facere*) which means “make,” and *simile*, which is “like” or “similar”
- **Impromptu** - *impromptu* comes to English from French, and the French got it from the Latin words *in promptu*, meaning “in readiness”
- **Mundane** - from the Latin word *mundus*, meaning “world.” This translates to “of the world,” as in not heavenly
- **Obvious** - derived from the Latin *obvius*, which comes from *obviam*, “in the way”
- **Per diem** - *per*, which means “through,” “during,” or “by means of,” and *diem* “day”
- **Per se** - taken directly from the Latin *per se*, meaning “by itself,” “it itself” or “of itself”
- **Vice versa** - from *vicis* “change” or “alternate order” and *versus* “to turn”

“More Vocabulary” is mostly pulled from the listicle:

<https://blog.lingoda.com/en/15-surprisingly-common-latin-words-used-in-english/>

\* Don't trust everything you read on the internet. For a better explanation of the Latin plural for this word than the one found in the listicle:

[https://elearning.unite.it/pluginfile.php/234524/mod\\_resource/content/1/agenda%20data%20criteria%20media.pdf](https://elearning.unite.it/pluginfile.php/234524/mod_resource/content/1/agenda%20data%20criteria%20media.pdf)

*To pursue your own studies of Classical Latin and all the other types of Latin, there are a number of resources available in paper and on-line such as*

- <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/> Introduction to reading medieval Latin documents web series lessons offered by the UK National Archives
- [https://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Introduction\\_to\\_Latin/Verbs](https://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Introduction_to_Latin/Verbs)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical\\_Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_Latin)