

GRADE 3 LATIN

First edition

5 units

10 lessons • one quarter

A video for every lesson

FIRST EDITION

COURSE GUIDE

This short course is a third grader's first happy meeting with Latin: not grammar, but wonder. Latin is a real language full of words a child can see, say and touch, and every lesson is built around a real thing: the great scale model of ancient Rome, a mosaic dog at a Pompeii front door with the words CAVE CANEM, a painted Roman couple proud that they can read and write, the sacred geese that saved Rome, a famous clock face counting in Roman numerals, a six-hundred-year-old painting of a January feast, William Penn's forest land hiding the word *silva*, and a giant songbook page that whole choirs sang from.

Every lesson follows the same path. First comes **the story**, short enough to read aloud at the table. Then **how Latin works**: the sounds and the words the story opens up, kept simple for ages 8-9, with no grammar drills at all. Then **say it out loud**, because Latin is learned by chanting, greeting and singing. Last, **try it**: the student makes vowel cards, a Latin door sign, a labeled floor plan, place cards for a Latin dinner, a night-sky page, animal cards, a paper clock face, a birthday calendar and a word-detective page, and finishes the quarter by hosting a Family Latin Evening.

By the end of the quarter the student can pronounce Latin the way a Roman did (c always hard, v like our w, every letter sounded), greet and thank the family in Latin, say about 45 Latin words for the people, places and creatures of everyday life, count from *unus* to *decem* and read the Roman numerals I to X, spot the Latin hiding inside English words like *aquarium* and *Pennsylvania*, and sing *Dona nobis pacem* as a round. Latin named the planets, the months and half the long words in English; the old saying on our crest, *Fabricando fit faber*, "by making, one becomes a maker," is Latin too. This course is where the wonder starts.

Most videos come from trusted teaching channels: Classical Academic Press (sample chapters from *Song School Latin*, a songs-and-chants program made for exactly this age), *Magister Craft* (short stories spoken in clear, slow Latin with English subtitles, filmed in

Minecraft), Homeschool Pop, Learn Bright, Socratica Kids, NASA, Roman Roads Press and latintutorial. Every video was previewed for accuracy and content. A few are made for an older audience; the lesson notes say so, and the lesson on the months names one 18-minute video that parents should watch together with the student and stop whenever they like. You may hear small differences in pronunciation between channels (classical and church pronunciation); both are correct, and this course teaches the classical sounds. Some channels end with an invitation to subscribe; you can stop the video when the teaching ends.

Start with Lesson 1.1 →

WHO IT IS FOR

Written for students in grade 3 (about ages 8–9). This is the first course in the Latin 3–8 sequence, and it assumes nothing: no earlier Latin, and no grammar. A parent or teacher reads the stories aloud or alongside, joins the chants and plays the games; the practice is all matching, choosing, counting, spotting and saying out loud, never writing Latin beyond copying single words. Nothing needs to be bought: every activity uses paper, index cards, crayons and household things.

HOW TO USE THIS COURSE

1. **The weekly rhythm.** The quarter has 10 lessons, one a week, each with three sessions of 20–30 minutes, a length chosen for an eight-year-old's attention. Session 1 is the warm-up, the video, the story and the picture study. Session 2 is the activity and the Latin notebook. Session 3 is the worked examples, the practice and a recitation: the student says the week's words out loud to the family, big and bold. In the second week of each unit, use part of Session 3 for the unit review and the unit challenge.
2. **Where this course begins.** Grade 3 is the front door of the whole Latin 3–8 sequence, so it starts from zero and stays there happily: sounds, words, numbers and songs, with no declensions, no cases and no conjugations. Grade 4 will build on exactly these words, so every card made this quarter keeps paying off. The one seed planted here, and only noticed, never drilled, is that Latin words change their endings: *rosa* is one rose and *rosae* is two.

3. **Say it every day.** Latin at this age is a mouth-and-ear language. Open every session by chanting the five vowel sounds (ah, ay, ee, oh, oo) and running a handful of flashcards out loud. From Lesson 1.2 on, the household greetings are daily: *salve* when you meet someone, *vale* when you leave, *gratias* when you are given something. Two cheerful minutes a day beat a long silent hour.
4. **Story, then words, then doing.** The core ideas are written to be read aloud. The paragraph marked *The story* tells what happened; *How Latin works* gives the week's sounds or words; *Say it out loud* gives the chants; *Try it* explains the activity. After each paragraph, ask the student to tell it back in his or her own words.
5. **Flashcards and the word wall.** Every lesson adds a few Latin words. Make a flashcard for each one (Latin on the front, English on the back, a little drawing if the student likes) and keep the growing deck in a box or on a ring. Review the deck at the start of Session 2 and Session 3: a word the student gets right three times in a row can move to a weekly pile. By the end of the quarter the deck holds about 45 words.
6. **The word list.** The whole course teaches 43 flashcard words plus three sight words, in this order. Unit 1, first words and greetings: *aqua*, *via*, *luna*, *corona*, *cena*; then *salve*, *salvete*, *vale*, *gratias*. Unit 2, words of home: *familia*, *mater*, *pater*, *filius*, *filia*, *casa*, *villa*, *porta*; then *mensa*, *rosa*, *uva*, *hora*, *stella* (and *domus* as a sight word). Unit 3, words of God's world: *terra*, *silva*, *insula* (with *caelum* as a sight word); then *equus*, *porcus*, *agnus*, *aquila* (and *canis* as a sight word). Unit 4, counting words: *unus*, *duo*, *tres*, *quattuor*, *quinque*, *sex*, *septem*, *octo*, *novem*, *decem*; then *annus*, with the Latin month names read aloud for fun. Unit 5, the song: *dona*, *nobis*, *pacem*. This list is the flashcard deck; a student who owns these cards owns the course.
7. **The Latin notebook.** Use any notebook for the whole quarter. It holds the vowel chart, the word lists with little drawings, the night-sky page notes, the numeral hunts and the word-detective catches. Date every page. At this age the notebook may be half pictures; that is exactly right.
8. **Practice is play.** The practice items are matching, choosing, counting, spotting and saying aloud; the student never writes Latin beyond copying single words. The answers explain the why in a sentence, so a parent with no Latin can check everything. If an item flops, say the answer cheerfully and move on; it will come around again.

9. **Practice on the web.** Our companion site, [Latin Launchpad](#), is free and has matching games, flashcards and quizzes sorted by grade; its grade 3 word packs cover most of this course's word list, and the games suit a Session 2 finisher or a rainy Saturday. It is optional: the course is complete with cards and paper.
10. **Unit review and unit challenge.** Each unit ends with a short review (30 points), which may be done orally with the parent writing the answers, and a unit challenge: a loud family recitation, a house labeled in Latin for a week, a creature chart, a family timeline in Roman numerals, and at last the Family Latin Evening. Keep the challenge work in a folder.
11. **The Family Latin Evening.** In the last week, the student hosts the family: he or she teaches everyone *salve*, *vale* and *gratias*, serves a snack at a table set with Latin place cards, shows the animal cards and the night-sky page, and leads *Dona nobis pacem* as a round. It is the whole quarter on one happy evening.

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

UNIT 1 • WEEKS 1–2

The Sounds of Latin

Rome grows from huts on a hill to a city of a million people, seen in the great scale model, and the student discovers English words that are pure Latin; then Pompeii's talking doormat, CAVE CANEM, teaches the four letter rules, and the household learns to greet in Latin: *salve*, *salvete*, *vale*, *gratias*.

1.1 A Language You Already Speak

1.2 Say It Like a Roman

UNIT 2 • WEEKS 3–4

Words of Home

A walk through a Roman domus with its rain-pool atrium opens the words of the familia: *mater*, *pater*, *filius*, *filia*, *casa*, *villa*, *porta*; then Roman mealtimes open the words of the table, *mensa*, *cena*, *rosa*, *uva*, *hora*, *stella*, and the student sets a real Latin dinner with place cards.

2.1 The Familia

2.2 At the Table

UNIT 3 • WEEKS 5–6

Words of God's World

The planets wear Roman names, and the student learns terra, stella, luna, silva, insula and caelum while making a night-sky page, with Psalm 19 at the heart of it; then the geese that saved Rome in 390 B.C. bring the animal words equus, porcus, agnus, aquila and canis, and a barnyard guessing game.

3.1 Earth and Sky

3.2 The Animals That Saved Rome

UNIT 5 • WEEKS 9–10

Latin All Around You

The student becomes a word detective, finding the Latin hiding inside aquarium, terrarium, stellar, lunar, coronation, viaduct and Pennsylvania itself, and learning to test impostors like lunch; then three Latin words, dona nobis pacem, become a song the family sings as a round at the Family Latin Evening.

5.1 Word Detectives

5.2 A Song in Latin

UNIT 4 • WEEKS 7–8

Counting Like a Roman

Counting from unus to decem and building the Roman numerals I to X, with a numeral scavenger hunt and a paper clock face; then the months take off their masks, January's doorkeeper, Caesar's July, and October the 'eighth' that is really our tenth, and the student makes a family birthday calendar.

4.1 Unus to Decem

4.2 The Months Wear Latin

WEEKLY PACING CALENDAR

WEEK	PLAN
1	• Session 1: Lesson 1.1 A Language You Already Speak: warm-up, video, story and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.1 activity (vowel cards and the 'Latin I already speak' poster) and Latin notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, and the first recitation out loud <i>Three short sessions a week is the usual rhythm: one to listen and look, one to make, one to play and recite. Add a minute or two of flashcards on the other days if you like.</i>
2	• Session 1: Lesson 1.2 Say It Like a Roman: warm-up, video, story and picture study

WEEK	PLAN
	• Session 2: Lesson 1.2 activity (the Latin door sign) and Latin notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation • Session 3 (end of unit): Unit 1 review and unit challenge (My Latin voice)
3	• Session 1: Lesson 2.1 The Familia: warm-up, video, story and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.1 activity (the labeled floor plan) and Latin notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation
4	• Session 1: Lesson 2.2 At the Table: warm-up, video, story and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.2 activity (the Latin dinner) and Latin notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation • Session 3 (end of unit): Unit 2 review and unit challenge (the labeled house)
5	• Session 1: Lesson 3.1 Earth and Sky: warm-up, video, story and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.1 activity (the night-sky page) and Latin notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation; go stargazing if the night is clear
6	• Session 1: Lesson 3.2 The Animals That Saved Rome: warm-up, video, story and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.2 activity (animal cards and the barnyard game) and Latin notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation • Session 3 (end of unit): Unit 3 review and unit challenge (the creature chart)
7	• Session 1: Lesson 4.1 Unus to Decem: warm-up, video, story and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.1 activity (numeral scavenger hunt and paper clock face) and Latin notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation
8	• Session 1: Lesson 4.2 The Months Wear Latin: warm-up, video (watched together), story and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.2 activity (the family birthday calendar) and Latin notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation • Session 3 (end of unit): Unit 4 review and unit challenge (the family timeline in Roman numerals)
9	• Session 1: Lesson 5.1 Word Detectives: warm-up, video, story and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.1 activity (the word-detective notebook page) and Latin notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice and recitation

WEEK	PLAN
10	• Session 1: Lesson 5.2 A Song in Latin: warm-up, video, story and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.2 activity (learning the round and planning the evening) and Latin notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice and a final run of the whole flashcard deck • Session 3 (end of unit): Unit 5 review and unit challenge (the Family Latin Evening) <i>Last week. Host the Family Latin Evening: the student teaches the family salve, vale and gratias, serves a snack at a table set with Latin place cards, shows the animal cards and the night-sky page, and leads Dona nobis pacem as a round.</i>

MATERIALS

Latin notebook (any notebook)

One for the quarter: the vowel chart, word lists with drawings, the numeral hunt, the word-detective page and notes from every lesson.

Index cards or paper cut into card-sized pieces, and a box, bag or binder ring to keep them

For the flashcard deck that grows every lesson, and for the dinner place cards and animal cards.

Pencil, crayons or colored pencils, and a fine-tip marker

For the door sign, the labels, the posters and the paper clock face.

A sheet of black or dark blue paper and a white crayon or white pencil

For the night-sky page in Unit 3. Chalk on dark paper works too.

Sticky notes or paper strips and tape

For the Latin labels that live on the doors, tables and sinks of the house in Unit 2.

A simple snack, cups and a cloth

For the Latin dinner in Unit 2 and the Family Latin Evening in week 10. Bread and grapes are very Roman; anything simple works.

GRADING

Grades come mostly from the daily doing: the chants, the greetings, the flashcard reviews, the notebook and the games, because at this age Latin is learned by saying it out loud with a glad heart. A student who chants boldly, keeps the greetings going all week and finishes each activity earns full credit.

PART	%
Saying it out loud (chants, greetings, flashcard reviews, recitations)	30
Latin notebook (dated pages, word lists, drawings, detective catches)	25
Practice (matching, choosing, counting and spotting, checked with the answers)	15
Unit reviews	15
Unit challenges	15

Scale: A 90–100, B 80–89, C 70–79, D 60–69. Below 60: play the games again with help; at this age, repetition is the whole secret.

- Pronunciation is graded on courage and consistency, not perfection. Any eight-year-old who says Latin out loud every day is doing it right.
- Unit reviews are meant to be done orally; the parent asks, the student answers, and the parent writes it down.
- Nothing in this course asks the student to write Latin beyond copying single words in big letters. If a practice item feels like a test, turn it into a game.

A NOTE TO PARENTS

You do not need to know Latin to teach this course. Every word comes with its sound spelled out (cena is KAY-nah, via is WEE-ah), every story is written to be read aloud, and the videos do the modeling a specialist would. Learn alongside your child: greet each other with salve, say gratias at the table, and let your child be the family's Latin teacher. At this age, that job is half the joy.

This course deliberately teaches no grammar: no declensions, no cases, no conjugations. Those begin gently in later grades. Grade 3 plants sounds, about 45 concrete words, Roman numerals and a song, and one tiny observation made twice and never drilled: that Latin words change their endings (rosa, one rose; rosae, two roses). Resist the urge to explain further; wonder now, analysis later.

The stories are all cheerful or noble. The tale of the geese that saved Rome is told as the Romans told it, without battle detail; the lesson on the planets says plainly that the Romans named them for their gods but that we know whose glory the heavens declare (Psalm 19:1). The video for Lesson 4.2 was made for adults and runs 18 minutes: watch it together and stop whenever you like, since the first half covers the main story, or simply use the short backup video instead. The lesson notes flag the handful of other videos made for a slightly older audience.

PRINTABLE WORD LIST

VOCABULARY FOR THE COURSE

Classical Latin (restored). Restored classical Latin, the sounds of Caesar's day, which is what this course teaches from grade 3 on. The five long vowels are the grade 3 chant: a ah, e ay, i ee, o oh, u oo. An unmarked e says eh, an unmarked o says o, and an unmarked u says u; i and ī both say ee. The capital letters are the stressed syllable.

Every week's list is printed again inside that lesson. Say the capital letters loudest.

1.1 A LANGUAGE YOU ALREADY SPEAK

aqua

AH-kwah

noun

water

ENGLISH aquarium

via

WEE-ah

noun

a road or street

ENGLISH viaduct

lūna

LOO-nah

noun

the moon

ENGLISH lunar

corōna

ko-ROH-nah

noun

a crown or wreath

ENGLISH coronation

cēna

KAY-nah

noun

the main meal, dinner

Rōma

ROH-mah

noun

Rome

ENGLISH Roman

circus

KEER-kus

noun

a racetrack; a circle

ENGLISH circus

campus

KAHM-pus

noun

a flat field

ENGLISH campus

schola

SKHO-lah

noun

a school

ENGLISH school

bonus

BO-nus

adjective

good

ENGLISH bonus

videō

WEE-deh-oh

verb

I see

ENGLISH video

1.2 SAY IT LIKE A ROMAN

salvē

SAHL-way

greeting

hello, to one person

ENGLISH salutation

salvēte

sahl-WAY-teh

greeting

hello, to more than one person

ENGLISH salutation

valē

WAH-lay

greeting

goodbye, to one person

ENGLISH valedictory

grātiās

GRAH-tee-ahs

greeting

thank you

ENGLISH gratitude

cavē

KAH-way

verb

watch out; beware

ENGLISH caution

canis

KAH-nees

noun

a dog

ENGLISH canine

caelum

KYE-lum

noun

the sky; heaven

ENGLISH celestial

iānua

YAH-nu-ah

noun

a door

ENGLISH janitor

mōns

MOHNS

noun

a mountain

ENGLISH mount

cinis

KEE-nees

noun

ash, cinders

ENGLISH cinder

musivum

mu-SEE-wum

noun

a mosaic

ENGLISH mosaic

2.1 THE FAMILY

familia

fah-MEE-lee-ah

noun

the household

ENGLISH family

māter

MAH-ter

noun

mother

ENGLISH maternal

pater

PAH-ter

noun

father

ENGLISH paternal

filius

FEE-lee-us

noun

son

ENGLISH filial

filia

FEE-lee-ah

noun

daughter

ENGLISH filial

frāter

FRAH-ter

noun

brother

ENGLISH fraternal

casa

KAH-sah

noun

a cottage, a small house

villa

WEEL-lah

noun

a country house

ENGLISH villa

porta

POR-tah

noun

a gate

ENGLISH portal

domus

DO-mus

noun

a house, a home

ENGLISH domestic

ātrium

AH-tree-um

noun

the front hall of a Roman house

ENGLISH atrium

2.2 AT THE TABLE

mensa

MEN-sah

noun

a table

rosa

RO-sah

noun

a rose

ENGLISH rose

ūva

OO-wah

noun

a grape

hōra

HOH-rah

noun

an hour

ENGLISH hour

stella

STEL-lah

noun

a star

ENGLISH stellar

pānis

PAH-nees

noun

bread

cāseus

KAH-sews

noun

cheese

lac

LAHK

noun

milk

ENGLISH lactose

pōculum

POH-ku-lum

noun

a cup

mālum

MAH-lum

noun

an apple

ōvum

OH-wum

noun

an egg

ENGLISH oval

3.1 EARTH AND SKY

terra

TER-rah

noun

earth, land

ENGLISH terrain

silva

SEEL-wah

noun

a forest

ENGLISH Pennsylvania

īnsula

EEN-su-lah

noun

an island

ENGLISH peninsula

sōl

SOHL

noun

the sun

ENGLISH solar

nūbēs

NOO-bays

noun

a cloud

Mercurius

mer-KU-ree-us

name

Mercury, the swift planet

ENGLISH Mercury

Venus

WEH-nus

name

Venus, the bright planet

ENGLISH Venus

Mars

MAHRS

name

Mars, the red planet

ENGLISH Mars

Iuppiter

YUP-pee-ter

name

Jupiter, the great planet

ENGLISH Jupiter

Saturnus

sah-TUR-nus

name

Saturn, the slow planet

ENGLISH Saturn

astrum

AHST-rum

noun

a star, a constellation

ENGLISH astronomy

3.2 THE ANIMALS THAT SAVED ROME

equus

EH-kwus

noun

a horse

ENGLISH equine

porcus

POR-kus

noun

a pig

ENGLISH pork

agnus

AHG-nus

noun

a lamb

aquila

AH-kwee-lah

noun

an eagle

ENGLISH aquiline

ānser

AHN-ser

noun

a goose

bōs

BOHS

noun

an ox or a cow

ENGLISH bovine

ovis

O-wees

noun

a sheep

ENGLISH ovine

gallina

gahl-LEE-nah

noun

a hen

avis

AH-wees

noun

a bird

ENGLISH aviation

piscis

PEES-kees

noun

a fish

ENGLISH piscine

fēlēs

FAY-lays

noun

a cat

ENGLISH feline

4.1 UNUS TO DECEM

ūnus

OO-nus

number

one

ENGLISH unit

duo

DU-o

number

two

ENGLISH dual

trēs

TRAYS

number

three

ENGLISH trio

quattuor

KWAHT-tu-or

number

four

ENGLISH quartet

quīnque

KWEEN-kweh

number

five

sex

SEKS

number

six

septem

SEP-tem

number

seven

ENGLISH September

octō

OK-toh

number

eight

ENGLISH October

novem

NO-wem

number

nine

ENGLISH November

decem

DEH-kem

number

ten

ENGLISH December

centum

KEN-tum

number

one hundred

ENGLISH century

annus

AHN-nus

noun

a year

ENGLISH annual

4.2 THE MONTHS WEAR LATIN

Iānuārius

yah-nu-AH-ree-us

noun

January, the doorway month

ENGLISH January

Februārius

feh-bru-AH-ree-us

noun

February

ENGLISH February

Mārtius

MAHR-tee-us

noun

March, Mars's month

ENGLISH March

Aprīlis

ah-PREE-lees

noun

April

ENGLISH April

Māius

MAH-ee-us

noun

May

ENGLISH May

Iūnius

YOO-nee-us

noun

June

ENGLISH June

Iūlius

YOO-lee-us

noun

July, Julius Caesar's month

ENGLISH July

Augustus

ow-GUS-tus

noun

August, Augustus's month

ENGLISH August

September

sep-TEM-ber

noun

September, once the seventh month

ENGLISH September

Octōber

ok-TOH-ber

noun

October, once the eighth month

ENGLISH October

November

no-WEM-ber

noun

November, once the ninth month

ENGLISH November

December

deh-KEM-ber

noun

December, once the tenth month

ENGLISH December

5.1 WORD DETECTIVES

līber

LEE-ber

noun

a book

ENGLISH library

manus

MAH-nus

noun

a hand

ENGLISH manual

pēs

PAYS

noun

a foot

ENGLISH pedal

caput

KAH-put

noun

the head

ENGLISH capital

dēns

DAYNS

noun

a tooth

ENGLISH dentist

oculus

O-ku-lus

noun

an eye

ENGLISH oculist

cor

KOR

noun

the heart

ENGLISH cordial

vōx

WOHKS

noun

a voice

ENGLISH vocal

nāvis

NAH-wees

noun

a ship

ENGLISH navy

flūmen

FLOO-men

noun

a river

ENGLISH flume

arbor

AHR-bor

noun

a tree

ENGLISH arbor

5.2 A SONG IN LATIN

dō

DOH

verb

I give

ENGLISH donate

nōs

NOHS

pronoun

we; us

pāx

PAHKS

noun

peace

ENGLISH pacific

Deus

DEWS

noun

God

ENGLISH deity

sanctus

SAHNK-tus

adjective

holy

ENGLISH sanctuary

glōria

GLOH-ree-ah

noun

glory

ENGLISH glory

hymnus

HYMNUS

noun

a hymn

ENGLISH hymn

cantus

KAHN-tus

noun

a song

ENGLISH chant

laus

LOWS

noun

praise

ENGLISH laud

āmēn

AH-mayn

greeting

amen; so be it

ENGLISH amen

ecclēsia

ekk-LAY-see-ah

noun

a church, the assembly

ENGLISH ecclesiastical

UNIT 1

THE SOUNDS OF LATIN

Rome began as a few huts on a hill, and it grew and grew until it was the biggest city in the whole world: about a million people, back when no other city came close. Every one of those people spoke Latin. In this unit you will fly over that city, in a way, by studying the great scale model of ancient Rome that took one man most of his life to build, and you will make a surprising discovery: you already speak Latin. Aquarium, video, exit, bonus, circus, campus, villa: every one is a Latin word that English uses whole, letter for letter. Then you will learn the five Latin vowels with their warm, round sounds: ah, ay, ee, oh, oo.

Next you will visit Pompeii, the Roman town that was buried by a volcano and dug up again almost whole, and meet a doormat that talks: a mosaic dog at a front door with the words CAVE CANEM, beware of the dog! Reading those two words the real Roman way (KAH-way KAH-nem) will teach you the four letter rules: c always sounds like k, g is always hard, v sounds like our w, and ae sounds like eye. By the end of the unit you will greet your family with salve, say farewell with vale, say thank you with gratias, and read your first Latin words aloud so that a Roman could have understood you.

PREREQUISITES

- Can listen to a story read aloud and tell it back
- Can say the English alphabet and recognize the five English vowels
- No Latin is needed at all: this is the first course in the Latin 3–8 sequence, and it starts from zero

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can tell how Rome grew from huts on a hill to a city of a million people.
- ☐ I can say the five Latin vowels with their long sounds: ah, ay, ee, oh, oo.
- ☐ I can say the four letter rules: c like k, g hard, v like w, ae like eye.
- ☐ I can read CAVE CANEM the Roman way and tell what it means.
- ☐ I can greet with salve and salvete, say farewell with vale, and say thank you with gratias.
- ☐ I have started my flashcard deck and my Latin notebook, with a dated page for each lesson.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- ***Song School Latin 1* (Classical Academic Press):** A songs-and-chants Latin program written for exactly this age, with a student book and CD or streaming songs. This unit's main video is a free sample chapter; the full program makes a happy daily supplement for the whole quarter.
- **Latin Launchpad:** Free. Our companion practice site: flashcards, matching games and quizzes sorted by grade; its grade 3 word packs cover most of this course's word list. A good Session 2 finisher.
- **Latin for Beginners, by Benjamin L. D'Ooge (1911):** Free online. The classic old grammar, far beyond grade 3, for parents who want to peek at where the Latin road eventually leads. The student does not need it.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch has no ties to these authors, publishers or companies.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

1.1 A Language You Already Speak

3 sessions of 20–30 minutes

UNIT 1 REVIEW

Ask each question out loud and let the student answer out loud; a parent may write the answers down. The review is worth 30 points. Keep it cheerful: it is a recital, not an exam.

1. (5 pts)

Say the five Latin vowels with their long sounds, each with its Latin word.

2. (5 pts)

Say the four letter rules with one example each.

3. (5 pts)

Read CAVE CANEM the Roman way, tell what it means, and tell where the famous one was found.

4. (5 pts)

Give the right Latin word: hello to one person; hello to many; farewell; thank you.

5. (5 pts)

Give the English for: aqua, via, luna, corona, cena.

6. (5 pts)

Name three English words that are pure Latin used whole, and tell how big Rome grew.

ANSWER KEY

1. A ah (aqua), E ay (cena), I ee (via), O oh (corona), U oo (luna).
2. C is always hard like k (cena, KAY-nah); g is always hard as in go; v sounds like our w (via, WEE-ah); ae sounds like eye (caelum, KYE-lum).
3. KAH-way KAH-nem, beware of the dog: a mosaic at a front door in Pompeii, the town buried by a volcano in A.D. 79 and dug up almost whole.
4. Salve; salvete; vale; gratias.
5. Water, road, moon, crown, dinner.
6. Any three such as aquarium, video, exit, bonus, circus, campus. Rome grew to about a million people, the biggest city in the ancient world.

UNIT CHALLENGE: MY LATIN VOICE

Give your first Latin recital. Gather the family, stand up straight like a Roman herald, and perform from memory: first the five vowels with their sounds (ah, ay, ee, oh, oo), then the four letter rules with an example each, and then ten Latin words said loud and Roman: aqua, via, luna, corona, cena, salve, salvete, vale, gratias, and the two words of CAVE CANEM. Finish by greeting the whole audience with salvete and leaving the stage with vale. Loud, slow and round is the goal; a Roman in the back row should catch every syllable. If you like, let a parent film it so you can hear your own Latin voice at the end of the quarter and marvel at how far it has come.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
The sounds	All five vowel sounds and all four letter rules recited from memory, with examples.
The words	Ten Latin words said correctly the classical way: hard c, v like w, every letter sounded.
The voice	Loud, slow and clear, like a herald, not a mouse; the whole room could hear every syllable.
The greetings	The audience was greeted with salvete and farewelled with vale, delivered with a grin.

1.1 A LANGUAGE YOU ALREADY SPEAK

OBJECTIVES

- Tell how Rome grew from huts on a hill to the biggest city in the world.
- Say the five Latin vowels with their long sounds: ah, ay, ee, oh, oo.
- Read the first five Latin words aloud: aqua, via, luna, corona, cena.
- Point out English words that are pure Latin, used whole: aquarium, video, exit, bonus, circus.

Warm-up. Say these words out loud: aquarium, video, exit, bonus, circus, campus. Easy, right? Here is the surprise: every one of them is a Latin word, letter for letter. You have been speaking Latin your whole life without knowing it. Today you find out whose language it was, and how big their city grew.

WATCH

Song School Latin 1, DVD chap1

Classical Academic Press · 11:59

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhX_ogsYNDo

WHEN TO WATCH

After the story paragraphs, before Say it out loud. It is a sample chapter from a sing-along Latin program made for this exact age: sing along with the greetings, loudly.

Note: The teacher in the video uses songs and puppets; that is not babyish, it is how real language learning starts. You will hear salve, hello, which this course teaches properly in the next lesson, so consider it a sneak preview.

BACKUP VIDEO

Ancient Rome for Kids | Roman History

Homeschool Pop · 11:09

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tClxdOsC_JY

Watch this one if you want more of the story of Rome itself: how the little city grew into a giant. It pairs well with the picture study's scale model.

KEY TERMS

Latin

The language of ancient Rome. Romans spoke it at home, in the street and in the market, and English still uses hundreds of its words.

vowel

The letters a, e, i, o, u. In Latin each one has a warm, round sound: ah, ay, ee, oh, oo.

Rome

The city in Italy where Latin was born. It grew from huts on a hill into the biggest city in the ancient world, about a million people.

flashcard deck

Your growing box of word cards, Latin on the front and English on the back. It starts this week and grows all quarter.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

aqua

AH-kwah

noun

water

ENGLISH aquarium

via

WEE-ah

noun

a road or street

ENGLISH viaduct

lūna

LOO-nah

noun

the moon

ENGLISH lunar

corōna

ko-ROH-nah

noun

a crown or wreath

ENGLISH coronation

cēna

KAY-nah

noun

the main meal, dinner

Rōma

ROH-mah

noun

Rome

ENGLISH Roman

circus

KEER-kus

noun

a racetrack; a circle

ENGLISH circus

campus

KAHM-pus

noun

a flat field

ENGLISH campus

schola

SKHO-lah

noun

a school

ENGLISH school

bonus

BO-nus

adjective

good

ENGLISH bonus

videō

WEE-deh-oh

verb

I see

ENGLISH video

CORE IDEAS

The story. Almost three thousand years ago, Rome was just a cluster of huts on a hill beside a river in Italy. The people who lived there were farmers and shepherds, and the language they spoke was Latin. Their little town grew. It grew until it had roads reaching in every direction, fountains running with water brought in on stone bridges, a racetrack longer than five football fields, and more people than any city in the world: about a million. No city in Europe would be that big again for more than a thousand years. And all million of them, bakers and builders, mothers and soldiers, spoke Latin.

The city you can visit. In our picture study you will see that whole city at once. An Italian man named Italo Gismondi spent most of his life building a giant model of ancient Rome, so big it fills a museum room, with every temple, street and rooftop in its place. When you look at it, remember: every tiny street in that model was full of Latin, Latin being shouted by fruit sellers, whispered by grandmothers, and sung by children playing games.

How Latin works: five friendly vowels. Latin is easier to read than English, because its letters always keep their promises. Start with the five vowels and their long sounds. A says **ah**, as in father: *aqua* (AH-kwah), water. E says **ay**, as in they: *cena* (KAY-nah), dinner. I says **ee**, as in machine: *via* (WEE-ah), road. O says **oh**, as in hope: *corona* (ko-RO-nah), crown. U says **oo**, as in moon: *luna* (LOO-nah), moon. Did you notice *cena* starts with a k sound, and *via* starts with a w sound? Those are two of the letter rules you will learn properly next week. For now, just copy the sounds.

Say it out loud. Chant the five vowels with their sounds: A, ah! E, ay! I, ee! O, oh! U, oo! Do it three times, louder each time. Now say your first five Latin words slowly, then at full speed: aqua, water; via, road; luna, moon; corona, crown; cena, dinner. Every letter gets its sound; Latin has no silent letters at all.

Try it. This week you make your five vowel cards, the first cards in your deck, and a poster page called Latin I Already Speak, where you collect English words that are really Latin in disguise, or not even in disguise: aquarium, video, exit, bonus, circus, campus. Hang it where the family will see it.

PICTURE STUDY



Model of Imperial Rome, Italo Gismondi, 1933–1971 · Scale model (1:250) · Museo della Civiltà Romana, Rome

Photo: Jean-Pierre Dalbéra, via [Wikimedia Commons](#), CC BY 2.0

This is the whole city of ancient Rome, shrunk down so you can see it in one look. Italo Gismondi worked on this model for most of his life, nearly forty years, placing every temple, bath, street and apartment block where the real one stood around A.D. 320. Somewhere down in those tiny streets, imagine a million people, every one of them speaking Latin.

Look closely

- Find the great oval building: the Colosseum, where fifty thousand Romans could watch shows at once.
- Find the long, thin loop of the Circus Maximus, the chariot racetrack. It was longer than five football fields.
- Look at how tightly the rooftops are packed together. Most Romans lived in apartment buildings several stories tall, just like a big city today.
- Pick one tiny street and follow it with your eyes. Imagine the sounds there at noon: carts, sellers shouting prices, children playing, all of it in Latin.

Talk about it

1. Why do you think it took Gismondi almost forty years to build this model?
2. A million people lived here when most towns held a few hundred. What would a visitor from a small village have thought, walking in for the first time?

3. If you could shrink down and stand anywhere in this model city, where would you go first?

ACTIVITY

Vowel cards and the 'Latin I Already Speak' poster

Latin is learned out loud, so your first make is the set of five vowel cards you will chant from all quarter. Then you start collecting proof that you already speak Latin: a poster of English words that are really Latin.

You will need

- 10 index cards (5 for vowels, 5 for your first words)
- A sheet of paper or small poster board
- Pencil, crayons or markers
- Your Latin notebook

Steps

1. Make five vowel cards. On the front write the vowel big: A, E, I, O, U. On the back write its sound and its Latin word: A says ah (aqua), E says ay (cena), I says ee (via), O says oh (corona), U says oo (luna).
2. Drill the cards: a parent or sibling holds them up in any order, and you give the sound and the word. Go through the stack three times, chanting like a herald.
3. Make your first five word cards: aqua, via, luna, corona, cena on the front, water, road, moon, crown, dinner on the back. Draw a little picture on each if you like. These start your deck.
4. Title your poster page 'Latin I Already Speak.' Write on it, in big letters, the pure-Latin words you already use: aquarium, video, exit, bonus, circus, campus. Add any others the family suggests, and draw a picture for your favorite.
5. Hang the poster where everyone will see it, and read it aloud to someone at dinner.

Tips

- Say every letter. Latin has no silent letters, so corona has three full syllables: ko-RO-nah.
- Big and loud beats small and mumbled. If the cat looks up, you are chanting correctly.

- The little drawings matter: a picture on a flashcard glues the word into the memory.

Check your work

- ☐ I can give the long sound of all five vowels without peeking.
- ☐ My five vowel cards and five word cards are made and in my deck box.
- ☐ My poster has at least six pure-Latin words on it, and it is hanging up.
- ☐ I read my five Latin words aloud and someone checked me against the cards.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. Start your Latin notebook: write your name and the date, and the title *Lingua Latina* (the Latin language) in your best big letters.
2. Copy the vowel chart: the five vowels, their sounds (ah, ay, ee, oh, oo) and one Latin word each.
3. Write your first five words with meanings: aqua, via, luna, corona, cena, and draw a small picture beside each.
4. Draw Rome as you imagine it: huts on a hill, or the giant city with a million people. Write under it: everyone here spoke Latin.

From history. Rome held about a million people at its height, around the time of the early emperors. After Rome shrank, Europe did not see a city that size again until London reached a million around 1800, more than a thousand years later. For all those centuries, 'big city' meant 'Rome.'

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. How would a Roman say *aqua* (water)?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Give every letter its sound: a says ah, qu says kw, a says ah.
2. Say it slowly: AH-kwah.
3. Say it at normal speed, stressing the first syllable.

Answer: AH-kwah. Two syllables, both vowels sounded.

Example 2. How would a Roman say *luna* (moon)?

▼ **Show solution**

1. U says oo, as in moon.
 2. A says ah at the end; Latin never swallows its last vowel.
 3. Put it together: LOO-nah.
-

Answer: LOO-nah. It even sounds round, like the full moon.

Example 3. Which of these English words is pure Latin, used whole: *exit*, *pizza*, *backpack*?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Pizza is Italian, a daughter of Latin, but not Latin itself.
 2. Backpack is plain English, built from back and pack.
 3. Exit is Latin, letter for letter: it means 'he or she goes out.'
-

Answer: Exit. Every exit sign you have ever seen is written in Latin.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** What sound does the Latin vowel A make? Say it with its word.

▼ **Show answer**

Ah, as in father: aqua, AH-kwah.

2. **Easy** What does *luna* mean? Say it the Roman way.

▼ **Show answer**

Moon: LOO-nah.

3. **Easy** Which Latin vowel says ee, and which Latin word from this lesson shows it?

▼ **Show answer**

I says ee: via (WEE-ah), road.

4. **Medium** Match the Latin to the English: aqua, via, corona — crown, water, road.

▼ **Show answer**

Aqua is water, via is road, corona is crown.

5. **Medium** Say *corona* the Roman way. How many syllables does it have?

▼ **Show answer**

Ko-RO-nah: three syllables. Every vowel gets its sound.

6. **Medium** Name three English words that are pure Latin, used whole.

▼ **Show answer**

Any three such as aquarium, video, exit, bonus, circus, campus, villa.

7. **Hard** About how many people lived in ancient Rome at its biggest, and why does that matter for Latin?

▼ **Show answer**

About a million, more than any other city in the world then. That one enormous city, plus all its roads and soldiers and traders, is how Latin spread so far.

8. **Challenge** A friend says, 'Latin is a dead language nobody uses.' Using only words from today, how could you answer?

▼ **Show answer**

Point at the nearest exit sign: exit is Latin. So are aquarium, video, bonus and circus. English uses Latin words every day, so Latin is hiding in plain sight, not gone.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying the vowels the English way: a as in cake instead of ah as in father. Chant the five sounds daily until ah, ay, ee, oh, oo feels natural.
- Swallowing the last vowel: saying LOO-n instead of LOO-nah. Latin sounds every letter to the end.
- Rushing. Latin words like to be said slowly and roundly first; speed comes later.
- Thinking Latin belongs only to grown-ups. Roman children your age spoke it at breakfast; you are just joining them.

Make it a game · Vowel Echo. Make five cards, one for each vowel, and lay them on the floor. The parent calls a vowel sound, ah, ay, ee, oh or oo, and you hop to the matching card and say it back. Then the parent points silently and you chant the sound from memory. Add a new card of a Latin word you already know, like Roma.

Scripture. “Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.” (Psalm 19:2–3, KJV)

God's glory speaks in every language on earth, and every language belongs to His world. Today you begin learning one of the oldest and mightiest of them, and it will teach you to hear your own language better too.

UNIT 1 • THE SOUNDS OF LATIN • LESSON 1.2 OF 10 • 3 SESSIONS OF 20–30 MINUTES

1.2 SAY IT LIKE A ROMAN

OBJECTIVES

- Tell how Pompeii was buried in A.D. 79 and dug up again almost whole.
- Say the four letter rules: c always like k, g always hard, v like our w, ae like eye.
- Read CAVE CANEM aloud the Roman way and tell what it means.
- Greet with salve and salvete, say farewell with vale, and say thank you with gratias.

Warm-up. Chant your five vowel cards: ah, ay, ee, oh, oo. Now imagine walking up to a Roman front door two thousand years ago. Before you can knock, the floor itself speaks to you: there is a dog made of tiny tiles, teeth bared, and under it two words in big letters. Today you will read a Roman doormat, and it will teach you to talk like a Roman.

WATCH

The Latin Alphabet - Consonant Pronunciation

latintutorial · 4:46

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0oWWOJW3948>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the How Latin works paragraph. Repeat the sounds after the narrator, especially c, g and v; nobody is listening but the family.

Note: This channel is a Latin teacher's and is made for older students, but it is short and clear, and it teaches the exact classical sounds this course uses. Watch it together and copy the sounds out loud.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn the Latin Alphabet in 60 Seconds | Latin Alphabet Song | Teach and Learn Latin Alphabet

Language Learning Market · 0:54

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flByo3HmCak>

A one-minute alphabet song for a quick, cheerful second pass. Sing it twice; it is shorter than brushing your teeth.

KEY TERMS

Pompeii

A Roman town buried by the volcano Vesuvius in A.D. 79 and dug up again centuries later, with its houses, paintings and floors still in place.

mosaic

A picture made from hundreds of tiny colored tiles set into a floor or wall. The CAVE CANEM dog is a mosaic.

classical pronunciation

Saying Latin the way Romans of Caesar's day said it: c always like k, g always hard, v like our w, ae like eye.

greeting

A hello or goodbye word. Latin says salve (hello to one person), salvete (hello to more than one) and vale (farewell).

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

salvē

SAHL-way

greeting

hello, to one person

ENGLISH salutation

salvēte

sahl-WAY-teh

greeting

hello, to more than one person

ENGLISH salutation

valē

WAH-lay

greeting

goodbye, to one person

ENGLISH valedictory

grātiās

GRAH-tee-ahs

greeting

thank you

ENGLISH gratitude

cavē

KAH-way

verb

watch out; beware

ENGLISH caution

canis

KAH-nees

noun

a dog

ENGLISH canine

caelum

KYE-lum

noun

the sky; heaven

ENGLISH celestial

iānua

YAH-nu-ah

noun

a door

ENGLISH janitor

mōns

MOHNS

noun

a mountain

ENGLISH mount

cinis

KEE-nees

noun

ash, cinders

ENGLISH cinder

musivum

mu-SEE-wum

noun

a mosaic

ENGLISH mosaic

CORE IDEAS

The story. In A.D. 79, the mountain above the Roman town of Pompeii turned out to be a volcano. It buried the whole town in ash, and Pompeii lay hidden, like a sealed treasure box, for about seventeen hundred years. When diggers finally opened it up, they found a Roman town almost whole: streets, shops, gardens, wall paintings, even loaves of bread still in the ovens. And at the front door of one fine house, they found a

doormat that talks. Set into the floor is a mosaic of a fierce dog, made of tiny black and white tiles, straining at its leash, and under it two words in capital letters: CAVE CANEM. Beware of the dog!

Reading the doormat. Here is how a Roman read it: KAH-way KAH-nem. Not 'cave' like a bear's cave, and not 'canem' like a tin can. Those two words hold the biggest secrets of Latin pronunciation, which is why this lesson is built around a doormat. Read it right and you can read almost anything in Latin, because Latin letters always keep their promises.

How Latin works: the four letter rules. Rule one: **c is always hard, like k.** Cave is KAH-way, cena is KAY-nah. Latin has no soft c ever. Rule two: **g is always hard,** as in go, never as in giant. Rule three: **v sounds like our w:** via is WEE-ah, cave is KAH-way. Rule four: **ae sounds like eye:** the word caelum (sky) is KYE-lum. That is the whole toolbox; with five vowels and four rules you can say any word in this course.

Say it out loud. Now learn the greetings Romans used every day. *Salve* (SAHL-way) is hello to one person; *salvete* (sahl-WAY-teh) is hello to a whole room; *vale* (WAH-lay) is farewell. And *gratias* (GRAH-tee-ahs) means thank you. Try the v rule on all of them: salve and vale both get the w sound. Greet everyone in the house today, one at a time with salve, all together with salvete, and leave the room with vale.

Try it. This week you make a Latin sign for your own door in big Roman capital letters: CAVE CANEM if you want visitors to grin, or SALVE if you want them to feel welcome. Romans had talking doormats; your room can have one too.

PICTURE STUDY



Cave Canem Mosaic, House of the Tragic Poet, Unknown Roman mosaic artist, About 1st century A.D. ·

Floor mosaic · House of the Tragic Poet, Pompeii

Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain

This is the floor just inside a front door in Pompeii, exactly where a doormat would lie. The dog is made of hundreds of tiny tiles; it strains forward on its leash, teeth showing, and the words below it say CAVE CANEM: beware of the dog. It has been warning visitors for about two thousand years, and thanks to the ash that sealed Pompeii, it still does its job perfectly.

Look closely

- Read the letters out loud the Roman way: KAH-way KAH-nem. You are reading the same warning a Roman visitor read at this door.
- Look closely at the dog: it is built entirely from tiny squares of stone called tesserae. Find where the artist used white tiles to show the teeth.
- Find the dog's leash and collar. Is this dog calm or ready to spring? How did the artist show that with just black and white?
- Notice where the mosaic sits: right at the entrance, the first thing a visitor's feet and eyes would meet.

Talk about it

1. Why might a Roman family want their warning sign built into the floor instead of hung on the wall?

2. What does a joke like a talking doormat tell you about how ordinary and everyday Latin was?
3. If your front hall had a mosaic, what picture and what two or three Latin words would you choose?

ACTIVITY

A Latin sign for your door

Romans put Latin right into their floors and walls. Today you letter a Latin sign for your own bedroom door in big Roman capitals: CAVE CANEM for a grin, or SALVE for a welcome.

You will need

- A sheet of paper or card for the sign
- Pencil, ruler, and crayons or markers
- 4 index cards for the new words
- Tape or sticky tack to hang the sign

Steps

1. Choose your sign: CAVE CANEM (beware of the dog) or SALVE (welcome). If you have no dog, CAVE CANEM is even funnier.
2. Rule two light pencil lines across the paper so your letters stand straight, like carved Roman capitals.
3. Pencil the letters big and bold, all capitals, then go over them in color. Romans loved deep red and black.
4. Draw a guard dog, a border of leaves, or a mosaic-style frame of little colored squares around the words.
5. Make four flashcards for the week's words: salve (hello, to one), salvete (hello, to many), vale (farewell), gratias (thank you). Add them to your deck.
6. Hang the sign on your door, then stand like a Roman herald and read it aloud to the family: KAH-way KAH-nem!

Tips

- Roman capitals have no lowercase: EVERY LETTER STANDS TALL.
- Say the sign correctly every time you walk through your door this week; the door will drill you better than any worksheet.
- For a mosaic look, draw the letters as outlines and fill them with little colored squares.

Check your work

- ☐ My sign is lettered in straight, bold Roman capitals and hangs on my door.
- ☐ I can read CAVE CANEM the Roman way and tell what it means.
- ☐ I can say all four letter rules: c like k, g hard, v like w, ae like eye.
- ☐ My four greeting cards are in my deck, and I greeted the family with salve today.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. Copy the four letter rules with one example each: c like k (cena), g hard (as in go), v like w (via), ae like eye (caelum).
2. Write the greetings with their sounds and meanings: salve, salvete, vale, gratias.
3. Draw the CAVE CANEM dog in your notebook, with the words lettered underneath.
4. Write one sentence about what the ash did for Pompeii: it buried the town, and it kept it safe for us to find.

From history. Pompeii's walls were covered with everyday Latin: shop signs, election notices and friendly scribbles. Archaeologists have found bakeries with eighty-one loaves of bread still in the oven, and the names of the bakers scratched nearby. Latin was not a schoolbook language there; it was the language of breakfast.

Practice habit. From today to the end of the course, the greetings are daily: salve when you meet someone in the morning, vale when you leave the house, gratias whenever you are handed something. Three little words, every day; by week 10 they will belong to the whole family.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. How would a Roman read CAVE CANEM?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Rule: c is always hard, like k, in both words.
2. Rule: v sounds like our w, so cave is KAH-way.
3. Sound every letter: canem is KAH-nem.

Answer: KAH-way KAH-nem: beware of the dog.

Example 2. How do you greet three friends at once in Latin?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Salve greets one person.
 2. For more than one, Latin uses salvete.
 3. Apply the v rule: sahl-WAY-teh.
-

Answer: Salvete! (sahl-WAY-teh), hello to all of you.

Example 3. Your grandmother passes you the bread. What do you say, and how?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Thank you in Latin is gratias.
 2. Sound every letter: GRAH-tee-ahs.
 3. Say it with a smile; Romans did too.
-

Answer: Gratias! (GRAH-tee-ahs), thank you.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** What sound does c make in Latin, always?

▼ **Show answer**

A hard k sound. Cave is KAH-way, cena is KAY-nah; Latin has no soft c.

2. **Easy** What does CAVE CANEM mean, and where was the famous one found?

▼ **Show answer**

Beware of the dog. On a mosaic floor at a front door in Pompeii.

3. **Easy** Which greeting do you use when you leave: salve or vale?

▼ **Show answer**

Vale (WAH-lay), farewell. Salve is for arriving.

4. **Medium** Say these the Roman way: via, vale, salve.

▼ **Show answer**

WEE-ah, WAH-lay, SAHL-way: v always sounds like our w.

5. **Medium** The word *caelum* (sky) has ae in it. Say it the Roman way.

▼ **Show answer**

KYE-lum: hard c, then ae saying eye.

6. **Medium** Match each word to its moment: gratias, salvete, vale — leaving the house; being handed a cookie; walking into a room full of cousins.

▼ **Show answer**

Vale when leaving; gratias for the cookie; salvete to the room full of cousins.

7. **Hard** Why does the mosaic dog of Pompeii still exist for us to see, when most floors from two thousand years ago are gone?

▼ **Show answer**

The volcano's ash buried Pompeii and sealed it like a treasure box, so its floors, paintings and even bread in the ovens were kept safe until diggers found them.

8. **Challenge** Julius Caesar's name starts with C and has ae in it. Using your two rules, how did Romans say his name?

▼ **Show answer**

KYE-sar: hard c and ae like eye. The German word Kaiser, emperor, still keeps the old Roman sound.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading cave like the English word cave. In Latin it is KAH-way: hard c, v like w, every vowel sounded.
- Softening c before e or i: saying SAY-nah for cena. Latin c is always k: KAY-nah.
- Using salve for a crowd. One person gets salve; two or more get salvete.
- Whispering. Romans greeted like Romans; say salve as if you are glad, because greetings are gifts.

Make it a game • Roman Sound Check. Read the four letter rules aloud together: c is k, g is hard, v is w, ae is eye. Then the parent holds up a word card like caelum or vita and you say it the Roman way before the parent can count to five. Each right word earns a bean. Collect ten beans and then trade jobs.

Scripture. “Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” (Colossians 4:6, KJV)

The first whole Latin words you own are greetings and a thank-you. That is a fine place for speech to begin: words of grace at the door and at the table.

UNIT 2

WORDS OF HOME

Latin was a home language before it was anything else, so your next words are the words of home. In this unit you will walk through a Roman house, a domus, from the front door to the garden: the atrium with its open roof and rain-pool, the small sleeping rooms around it, the kitchen, and the green garden at the back. The whole familia lived and worked there, and familia meant more than our word family: parents and children, yes, but also grandparents and the servants of the household. You will learn mater and pater, filius and filia, casa, villa and porta, and then you will label your own home in Latin, so that for one whole week every door in the house says porta.

Then comes the best room of all: the dining room. Romans ate a light breakfast of bread, bought hot snacks at street counters at midday, and sat down to the big meal, the cena, in the late afternoon. They loved their tables so much that they painted food right onto the dining-room walls: bowls of fruit, jars, fresh eggs. You will learn mensa, cena, rosa, uva, hora and stella, the evening star that calls the family in to dinner, and you will finish the unit by setting a real Latin dinner for your family, with place cards, a rose if you can find one, and gratias before the blessing.

PREREQUISITES

- Can say the five vowel sounds and the four letter rules from Unit 1
- Greets the family daily with *salve* and *vale*, and says *gratias* at the table
- Has the Unit 1 flashcards in the deck and the Latin notebook started

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can name the parts of a Roman house I met: the *domus*, its atrium and rain-pool, and the garden.
- ☐ I can say the eight family-and-home words with meanings: *familia*, *mater*, *pater*, *filius*, *filia*, *casa*, *villa*, *porta*.
- ☐ I can say the five table words with meanings: *mensa*, *cena*, *rosa*, *uva*, *hora*, and *stella* for the evening star.
- ☐ I labeled my own home in Latin and the labels stayed up all week.
- ☐ I set a Latin dinner, taught the family *gratias*, and used *salve* and *vale* at the door.
- ☐ I noticed that Latin words can change their endings: *rosa* is one rose, *rosae* is two.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- ***Song School Latin 1* (Classical Academic Press):** The songs-and-chants program for exactly this age; its family chapters (*mater*, *pater* and friends) pair beautifully with this unit's word list.
- **Any children's picture book about Pompeii:** From your library. A book of photographs of the houses, gardens and painted walls makes this unit's Roman house real; the student will recognize the atrium at once.
- **Latin Launchpad:** Free. Our companion practice site: its grade 3 word packs cover most of this course's words, including this unit's family and table words. A good Session 2 finisher.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch has no ties to these authors, publishers or companies.

2.1 The Familia

3 sessions of 20–30 minutes

2.2 At the Table

3 sessions of 20–30 minutes

UNIT 2 REVIEW

Ask each question out loud and let the student answer out loud; a parent may write the answers down. The review is worth 30 points. Keep it cheerful: it is a recital, not an exam.

1. **5 pts**

Walk me through a Roman domus in words: what do you pass from the front door to the back?

2. **5 pts**

Give the English for: mater, pater, filius, filia.

3. **5 pts**

What is the difference between a casa and a villa, and what does porta mean?

4. **5 pts**

Give the English for: mensa, cena, rosa, uva, hora, stella.

5. **5 pts**

What did familia mean to a Roman, and how is it bigger than our word family?

6. **5 pts**

One rose is rosa. What are two roses, and what does that show about Latin words?

ANSWER KEY

1. Through the porta into the atrium with its roof-opening and rain-pool, past the small sleeping rooms, back to the hidden garden. The house was plain outside and opened inward.
2. Mother, father, son, daughter.
3. A casa is a small, simple house; a villa is a big country house. Porta means door or gate.
4. Table, dinner, rose, grape, hour, star.
5. The whole household under one roof: parents, children, grandparents and the household's servants, all living and working together.
6. Rosae. Latin words can change their endings, the way English adds an s. (Noticing it is all grade 3 needs.)

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE LABELED HOUSE

For one full week, your house speaks Latin. Write labels, sticky notes or taped paper strips, in big Roman capitals, and put them up so that every door and gate in the house says porta, every water place (sink, tub, pitcher) says aqua, the table says mensa, the family rooms say mater, pater, filius, filia, and the front hall says familia over the coat hooks. Add rosa to a vase and stella to a window you can see the evening sky from. House rule: whoever passes a label says its word out loud, and a fallen label is put back up by whoever finds it, with the word spoken. At the end of the week, hold the family quiz: you point at each label's place with the label hidden, and the family, every member, must call out the Latin. Keep score cheerfully; the student is the quizmaster and says whether each answer stands.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Full coverage	At least eight labels up, covering porta, aqua, mensa, familia and the family's own rooms, lettered in bold Roman capitals.
The week held	The labels stayed up all seven days, and the house rule (say it as you pass) was kept.
The family quiz	The student ran the end-of-week quiz, pointing and judging answers, with every family member taking a turn.
The quizmaster's Latin	The student pronounced every label word correctly the classical way while running the quiz.

2.1 THE FAMILIA

OBJECTIVES

- Describe a Roman domus: the atrium with its rain-pool, the small rooms, and the garden at the back.
- Tell what familia meant to a Roman: the whole household, not just parents and children.
- Say the eight new words with meanings: familia, mater, pater, filius, filia, casa, villa, porta.
- Label the doors and rooms of your own home in Latin.

Warm-up. Greet everyone with salve, then try this riddle: what did a Roman house have in the middle of its roof? A hole, on purpose! Rain fell through it into a little pool in the front hall, and the family dipped their water from it. Today you walk through that house and learn the names of the people who lived there.

WATCH

Domus Romana - Roman House - Latin - Minecraft

Magister Craft • 3:24

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evJ7J1eqH2Y>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the story paragraph. The narrator speaks real Latin, slowly and clearly, with English subtitles: let the sound wash over you and listen for domus and familia.

Note: The tour is filmed in Minecraft, and the Latin is real. You will not understand most of the words yet; you are not supposed to. Hearing Latin spoken is the point.

BACKUP VIDEO

Ancient Rome for Kids | Learn all about the History of the Roman Empire for Kids

Learn Bright • 8:04

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wo0KujQEJ_s

Watch this one for the bigger picture of Roman life around the house: who the Romans were and how their world worked.

KEY TERMS

domus

A Roman family's town house. This one is a sight word: learn to recognize and say it (DOH-moos), no card needed.

familia

The Roman household: parents, children, grandparents and the household's servants, everyone who lived and worked under the one roof.

atrium

The front hall of a domus, with an opening in the roof and a rain-pool below it. Fancy hotels still call their big front halls atriums.

villa

A big country house with land around it. A casa, by contrast, is a small, simple house or cottage.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

familia

fah-MEE-lee-ah

noun

the household

ENGLISH family

māter

MAH-ter

noun

mother

ENGLISH maternal

pater

PAH-ter

noun

father

ENGLISH paternal

filius

FEE-lee-us

noun

son

ENGLISH filial

filia

FEE-lee-ah

noun

daughter

ENGLISH filial

frāter

FRAH-ter

noun

brother

ENGLISH fraternal

casa

KAH-sah

noun

a cottage, a small house

villa

WEEL-lah

noun

a country house

ENGLISH villa

porta

POR-tah

noun

a gate

ENGLISH portal

domus

DO-mus

noun

a house, a home

ENGLISH domestic

ātrium

AH-tree-um

noun

the front hall of a Roman house

ENGLISH atrium

CORE IDEAS

The story. Push open the heavy front door, the *porta*, of a Roman *domus* and step inside. You are in the atrium, the front hall, and the first thing you notice is the light pouring through a square hole in the roof. Under the hole is a shallow pool: when it rains, the roof feeds the pool, and the family has water at home. Around the atrium are small rooms for sleeping, and straight ahead, at the back of the house, is a surprise: a green garden with columns around it, hidden from the street like a secret. The house looks plain on the outside and opens like a jewel box within.

The whole household. Who lived there? The *familia*, and that word is bigger than our word family. It meant the whole household: the *pater* (father) and *mater* (mother), the *filius* (son) and *filia* (daughter), often a grandmother or grandfather, and the household's servants, who cooked, carried water and helped run the home. Everyone under the roof, working and eating and living together, was the *familia*. Our word family is simply their word, worn smooth by two thousand years of use.

How Latin works: words of home. Here are your eight new words, each with a little echo in English. *Familia* (fah-MEE-lee-ah), family. *Mater* (MAH-ter), mother; English says maternal. *Pater* (PAH-ter), father; English says paternal. *Filius* (FEE-lee-oos), son, and *filia* (FEE-lee-ah), daughter: one letter apart, like brother and sister holding hands. *Casa* (KAH-sah), a small house; Spanish still says *casa* every day. *Villa* (WEEL-lah), a grand country house; our word village grew out of it. *Porta* (POR-tah), door or gate; English says portal.

Say it out loud. Chant the pairs with a clap: mater, mother! pater, father! filius, son! filia, daughter! Then the houses, small to large: casa, villa, domus. Then point at the nearest door and say porta. Watch the v rule on villa: WEEL-lah. Do the whole set twice, then run your full flashcard deck from the beginning of the course.

Try it. This week you draw a floor plan of your own home and label it in Latin: porta on the doors, aqua at the sink, and the names of the familia in their rooms: mater, pater, filius, filia. Then the labels jump off the page: sticky notes go on the real doors and the real sink, and they stay up all week.

PICTURE STUDY



Portrait of Terentius Neo and His Wife, Unknown Pompeii fresco painter, About A.D. 55–79 · Fresco (wall painting) · From Pompeii; now in the Naples National Archaeological Museum

Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), CC0

This husband and wife had their portrait painted right onto the wall of their house in Pompeii, and the ash kept their faces fresh for us. He is Terentius Neo, probably a baker, and he holds a rolled-up scroll. She, his wife and business partner, holds a wax tablet and a stylus, the pen Romans used to scratch letters into wax. They chose to be painted with reading and writing things, because they were proud that they could read and write, in Latin, of course.

Look closely

- Find the scroll in his hand and the hinged wax tablet in hers. Those were the books and notebooks of Rome.
- She holds the stylus to her lips, the way you might hold a pencil while thinking. What might she be about to write?
- Look at their eyes: the painter made both of them look straight at you, across two thousand years.
- They are dressed simply, not royally. Reading and writing were their treasures, and that is what they chose to show.

Talk about it

1. Why would a baker and his wife want to be painted holding a scroll and a wax tablet?

2. This painting was on the wall of their own house. Who do you think they hoped would see it?
3. If your family had a wall portrait painted, what objects would each person hold, and why?

ACTIVITY

The labeled floor plan

A Roman child learned home words at home. Today you draw your house like a Roman architect, label it in Latin, and then put the Latin on the real doors and the real sink, where it will teach you all week.

You will need

- A big sheet of paper for the floor plan
- Pencil, ruler and crayons
- Sticky notes or paper strips and tape
- 8 index cards for the new words

Steps

1. Draw a floor plan of your home: just rectangles for rooms, the way you would see them from above, like Gismondi's model of Rome.
2. Label every door and the front gate *porta*, and the kitchen sink and bathtub *aqua*.
3. Write the *familia* into their rooms: *mater* and *pater* where they sleep, *filius* or *filia* on your own room and your siblings' rooms, and *familia* in big letters over the whole plan.
4. Add *casa* or *villa* as a title: is your home a cozy *casa* or a grand *villa*? (Every home is allowed to be a *villa* on paper.)
5. Now the labels go live: write *porta*, *aqua*, *mensa* and *familia* on sticky notes and put them on the real door, sink and table. They stay up all week; say each word every time you pass it.
6. Make the eight flashcards (*familia*, *mater*, *pater*, *filius*, *filia*, *casa*, *villa*, *porta*) and add them to your deck.

Tips

- Say the word aloud as you stick each label; the hand, the eye and the voice teach the memory together.
- *Filius* and *filia* differ by one letter: *s* for son ends *filius*. Invent your own trick if that one slips.

- If a label falls down, whoever finds it must say the word to put it back up.
House rule.

Check your work

- ☐ My floor plan is drawn and fully labeled in Latin.
- ☐ The sticky labels are up on the real doors, sink and table.
- ☐ I can say all eight new words with meanings, without peeking.
- ☐ My eight new flashcards are in the deck, and I ran the whole deck once.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. Write the eight new words with meanings in a neat two-column list, dated: familia, mater, pater, filius, filia, casa, villa, porta.
2. Draw a Roman domus from above: porta at the front, atrium with its rain-pool, little rooms around it, garden at the back. Label porta and aqua.
3. Write domus and atrium as sight words with their meanings, and one sentence about the hole in the roof.
4. Copy and finish this sentence: 'To a Roman, familia meant...'

From history. The atrium's rain-pool was called the impluvium, the rain-catcher. Roman houses turned their backs on the noisy street, few windows outside, and opened inward to the sky and the garden. A Roman would find our houses strange: all windows outward, and a roof with no hole in it.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Which Latin word fits: the _____ opened the door to welcome her son home. (mater / mensa / luna)

▼ Show solution

1. Mensa is a table and luna is the moon: neither can open a door.
2. Mater means mother.
3. Check the sense: the mother opened the door. It fits.

Answer: Mater. And the door she opened? A porta.

Example 2. One letter changes *filius* into *filia*. What changes in the meaning?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Filius means son.
 2. Filia means daughter.
 3. The tiny ending does the work of telling brother from sister.
-

Answer: Filius is the son, filia is the daughter: one letter apart, like a brother and sister in the same familia.

Example 3. Is a cottage in the woods a *casa* or a *villa*?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Casa is a small, simple house.
 2. Villa is a big country house with land.
 3. A cottage is small and simple.
-

Answer: A casa. Spanish children still say casa for house every day; they inherited it from Latin.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** Give the English: mater, pater.

▼ **Show answer**

Mother, father.

2. **Easy** Which word means door or gate: porta or casa?

▼ **Show answer**

Porta. Casa is a small house.

3. **Easy** What is the atrium's secret in the roof?

▼ **Show answer**

An opening that lets rain fall into the pool below, so the family had water and light in the middle of the house.

4. **Medium** Match the Latin to the English: filia, villa, familia — household, daughter, country house.

▼ **Show answer**

Filia is daughter, villa is country house, familia is household.

5. **Medium** Say *villa* and *filius* the Roman way.

▼ **Show answer**

WEEL-lah (v like w, both l's sounded) and FEE-lee-oos (every letter sounded).

6. **Medium** How was a Roman familia bigger than what we usually call a family?

▼ **Show answer**

It meant the whole household under one roof: parents, children, grandparents and the household's servants, all living and working together.

7. **Hard** English porter (a door-keeper) and portal come from one of this week's words. Which one, and how do you know?

▼ **Show answer**

Porta, door or gate: a porter keeps the door and a portal is a grand doorway. The Latin meaning is still sitting inside both English words.

8. **Challenge** Spanish says casa, and French says ville for a town. What does that tell you about where Spanish and French came from?

▼ **Show answer**

They grew out of Latin: casa and villa kept on being spoken until they became Spanish and French words. Latin never died; it turned into its daughter languages.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Mixing filius and filia. The s in filius goes with son; filia is the daughter.
- Saying villa with an English v. It is WEEL-lah, with the w sound.
- Thinking familia means only parents and children. It meant the whole household, servants and grandparents included.
- Labeling the house and never saying the words. The labels only work if your mouth reads them every time you pass.

Make it a game · Walk Through the Domus. Turn your living room into a Roman house. Use chairs and paper signs to mark the atrium, the small rooms and the garden at the back. The parent calls a room and you walk to it. Then say what a familia was, including everyone in the household. Add one new word label and place it where it belongs.

Scripture. “But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15, KJV)

Joshua spoke for his whole household, exactly what a Roman meant by familia. A house where everyone, from the oldest to the youngest, serves the Lord together is the best kind of domus there is.

UNIT 2 · WORDS OF HOME · LESSON 2.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 20-30 MINUTES

2.2 AT THE TABLE

OBJECTIVES

- Tell how Romans ate: light breakfast, hot food bought at street counters, and the big cena in the late afternoon.
- Say the new table words with meanings: mensa, cena, rosa, uva, hora, stella.
- Notice, without any drill, that Latin endings can change: rosa is one rose, rosae is two.
- Set a Latin dinner with place cards and teach the family gratias before the blessing.

Warm-up. Run your flashcard deck, then answer this: what is the biggest meal at your house, and when do you eat it? A Roman child would say: the cena, in the late afternoon, when the work is done. Today you learn the words of the Roman table, and this week you will set one.

WATCH

Where did most Romans eat? - Roman Dining - Latin

Magister Craft · 5:26

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-kpUXmcgDz4>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the story paragraph. Spoken in slow, clear Latin with English subtitles: watch for the street food counters where most Romans bought their hot meals.

Note: Listen for cena, the word you already know from your vowel cards. Real Latin, really spoken: that is what it sounded like.

BACKUP VIDEO

What Archeology Reveals About Fast Food in the Roman Empire 🐟 | Life in Ancient Times w/ @DariusArya

PBS · 8:59

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utTF7dXcxfQ>

For a real archaeologist walking through real Roman snack bars. Made for a general audience, so watch it together; the digging and the food counters are the good parts.

KEY TERMS

cena

The main meal of the Roman day, eaten in the late afternoon when the day's work was done. Say it KAY-nah.

street counter

A Roman snack bar: a marble counter open to the street with big jars set into it, selling hot food. Pompeii's are still standing.

mensa

Table. The first noun in a thousand years of Latin schoolbooks, and now the first table word on your own place cards.

still life

A painting of things that hold still, like fruit, jars and bread. Romans painted them on their dining-room walls.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

mensa

MEN-sah

noun

a table

rosa

RO-sah

noun

a rose

ENGLISH rose

ūva

OO-wah

noun

a grape

hōra

HOH-rah

noun

an hour

ENGLISH hour

stella

STEL-lah

noun

a star

ENGLISH stellar

pānis

PAH-nees

noun

bread

cāseus

KAH-sews

noun

cheese

lac

LAHK

noun

milk

ENGLISH lactose

pōculum

POH-ku-lum

noun

a cup

mālum

MAH-lum

noun

an apple

ōvum

OH-wum

noun

an egg

ENGLISH oval

CORE IDEAS

The story. A Roman day at the table went like this. Breakfast was small: bread, maybe with a little cheese or fruit, eaten fast. At midday, most people in the city did not cook at all; they stopped at a street counter, a marble bar open to the street with big clay jars sunk right into the countertop, and bought something hot. Then, in the late afternoon, came the meal that mattered: the cena. The familia gathered, the lamps were lit, and there was time at last to eat slowly and talk. The best hour of the Roman day smelled like dinner.

Painted feasts. Romans loved their tables so much that they painted food on the dining-room walls: bowls of fruit, jars of wine, eggs, loaves, song-birds. In our picture study you will see one of these wall paintings from Pompeii, with a glass bowl of fruit so fresh-looking you could reach for a grape, painted by someone who died nineteen hundred years ago. Why paint food you cannot eat? For the same reason we hang pictures of good things: to say, here is plenty, welcome, sit down.

How Latin works: table words. Six new words set your table. *Mensa* (MEN-sah), table. *Cena* (KAY-nah), dinner, your old friend from the vowel cards. *Rosa* (RO-sah), rose, for the vase in the middle. *Uva* (OO-wah), a grape, one single grape; watch the v rule! *Hora* (HO-rah), hour: the cena came at its own hora every day. And *stella* (STEL-lah), star, because when the first star of evening showed, it was time to light the lamps and call everyone in. Here is a small wonder to notice, just notice: one rose is rosa, two roses are rosae. Latin words change their endings the way English adds an s. Tuck that away; grade 4 will open it up.

Say it out loud. Chant the table set: mensa, table! cena, dinner! rosa, rose! uva, grape! hora, hour! stella, star! Then try the dinner call a Roman mother might have loved: Cena! (KAY-nah!), dinner is ready! Practice uva until the w sound feels easy: OO-wah. Then run the whole deck; it is getting pleasingly fat.

Try it. This week you set a real Latin dinner. You make place cards (mensa, cena, aqua, rosa), set the table, put a rose or any flower in the middle, and teach the whole family to say gratias before the blessing. You are the magister now, the teacher, and the dinner table is your classroom.

PICTURE STUDY



Still Life with Fruit Bowl and Jars, Unknown Pompeii fresco painter, About A.D. 50–79 · Fresco (wall painting) · From the House of Julia Felix, Pompeii; now in the Naples National Archaeological Museum

Photo: Carole Raddato, via [Wikimedia Commons](#), CC BY-SA 2.0

This was painted on a dining-room wall in the house of a businesswoman named Julia Felix, in Pompeii. Look how the painter showed the glass bowl: you can see the fruit through its sides, painted glass, nineteen hundred years old. Beside it stand a tall jar and a smaller sealed one, the pantry of a Roman kitchen. Guests ate their cena with this painted plenty looking down at the real food on the mensa.

Look closely

- Find the glass bowl. The painter let you see through it to the fruit inside: look for the brushstrokes that make the shine.
- Count the kinds of fruit you can spot heaped in and around the bowl.
- Find the tall jar. Jars like this held wine or oil in every Roman pantry.
- Notice the ledge everything stands on. The painter wanted it to look like a real shelf in the wall, a little trick to fool your eye.

Talk about it

1. Why would a family want food painted on the dining-room wall where the real cena was served?
2. What foods would you paint on your dining-room wall to say welcome, sit down?

3. The painter of this wall never signed it. What can you still know about him from his work?

ACTIVITY

The Latin dinner

Tonight the student runs the table. You will set a Latin dinner: place cards in Latin, a flower in the middle, and a new table custom, gratias before the blessing, taught by you.

You will need

- 4 or more index cards folded into tents for place cards
- Markers or crayons
- A flower for the table (a rosa if you can find one; any flower may be an honorary rosa)
- 6 index cards for the new words
- The family's ordinary dinner

Steps

1. Make the place cards: mensa taped to the table's edge, cena standing by the serving dish, aqua by the water pitcher, rosa by the flower. Add a card with each person's Latin title if you like: mater, pater, filius, filia.
2. Letter them in big Roman capitals, like your door sign.
3. Set the table yourself tonight: plates, cups, the flower in the middle. A Roman cena began with someone laying the mensa with care.
4. Before the blessing, teach the lesson: hold up each card, say the word, and have the whole family repeat it. Then teach gratias, and explain it means thank you.
5. Say the family's usual blessing, and afterward let everyone try one full Latin sentence of thanks to the cook: Gratias, mater! or Gratias, pater!
6. Make the six new flashcards (mensa, cena, rosa, uva, hora, stella) and add them to the deck.
7. Bonus: if there are grapes for dinner, hold one up and announce: uva! One grape. Two grapes? Romans said uvae. Endings again; just smile and pass the grapes.

Tips

- Go slowly at the teaching moment: one card, one word, one repeat. A table lesson beats a classroom lesson because dinner is the reward.
- Keep the place cards; they return for the Family Latin Evening in week 10.
- If the family laughs at your Latin, teach them louder. Every teacher faces this.

Check your work

- ☐ I made at least four place cards and set the table myself.
- ☐ I taught the family mensa, cena, aqua, rosa and gratias at the table.
- ☐ The family said gratias before the blessing, and it is becoming our custom.
- ☐ My six new flashcards are in the deck, and I ran the whole deck.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. Write the six new words with meanings, dated: mensa, cena, rosa, uva, hora, stella, and draw a little table scene around them.
2. Draw the still life from the picture study in your own way: a bowl of fruit and a jar. Label the grape uva.
3. Copy this pair and what it shows: rosa, one rose; rosae, two roses. Latin words can change their endings.
4. Write one sentence about when the Roman cena happened and who gathered for it.

From history. Archaeologists in Pompeii have uncovered dozens of street food counters, and one, found with its paintings bright and its jars in place, still shows pictures of the foods it sold on the front of the counter: a menu you could point at, no reading needed. Fast food is not as new as it thinks.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Which word belongs in the middle of the table: *mensa*, *rosa* or *hora*?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Mensa is the table itself; it cannot stand on itself.
2. Hora is an hour: you cannot put time in a vase.
3. Rosa is a rose, and roses go in the vase in the middle.

Answer: Rosa. The mensa holds it, and the cena happens around it at its own hora.

Example 2. Say *uva* the Roman way, and tell what you are holding if you have one.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Apply the v rule: v sounds like our w.
 2. U says oo, a says ah: OO-wah.
 3. Uva means one grape, a single grape.
-

Answer: OO-wah: one grape. A whole bunch is many *uvae*.

Example 3. A Roman child sees the first star of evening and runs inside. Which two Latin words tell why?

▼ **Show solution**

1. The star is *stella*.
 2. The evening star meant the day's work was ending.
 3. The meal that followed was the *cena*.
-

Answer: *Stella* and *cena*: the evening star calls the familia in to dinner.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** Give the English: *mensa*, *cena*.

▼ **Show answer**

Table, dinner.

2. **Easy** Which word means star: *stella* or *hora*?

▼ **Show answer**

Stella. *Hora* is an hour.

3. **Easy** When did Romans eat their big meal, and what did they call it?

▼ **Show answer**

In the late afternoon, when the work was done: the *cena*.

4. **Medium** Match the Latin to the English: *rosa*, *uva*, *hora* — hour, rose, grape.

▼ **Show answer**

Rosa is rose, *uva* is grape, *hora* is hour.

5. **Medium** Say these the Roman way: cena, uva, stella.

▼ **Show answer**

KAY-nah (hard c), OO-wah (v like w), STEL-lah (both l's sounded).

6. **Medium** Where did most Romans in the city get their midday food?

▼ **Show answer**

At street counters, marble snack bars open to the street with big jars set into the countertop, selling hot food.

7. **Hard** One rose is rosa; two roses are rosae. One grape is uva; what do you think two grapes are, and what did Latin change to show it?

▼ **Show answer**

Uvae. Latin changed the ending of the word, a to ae, the way English adds an s. Just noticing this is enough for now.

8. **Challenge** English mensa appears in no common words, but think: why might a teacher a thousand years ago have chosen mensa as the very first Latin word in the schoolbook?

▼ **Show answer**

Answers vary: mensa is short, easy to say, and names something every student sits at every day. (And so it was: mensa opened Latin schoolbooks for centuries, and now it has opened yours.)

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying uva with an English v. It is OO-wah; the w sound makes it sound like a grape rolling.
- Mixing hora and rosa because they rhyme. Hora is the hour on the clock; rosa is the flower in the vase.
- Turning the ending-change into a lesson. Rosa, rosae is a wonder to point at, not a drill; the drilling belongs to later grades.
- Letting the Latin dinner become silent. The place cards are for saying out loud; a card nobody reads teaches nobody.

Make it a game · Table Words Charades. Write mensa, cena, rosa, uva, hora and stella on index cards. Draw one without showing the parent, and act or draw it silently. The parent guesses the word, then says its meaning. Switch roles. For a bonus, say the three Roman meals in order: light breakfast, street food and the cena. Trade after six words.

Scripture. “And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart” (Acts 2:46, KJV)

The first Christians, many of them in Roman cities, ate together from house to house with glad hearts. A table set with care and a gratias said truly make an ordinary cena into something like that gladness.

UNIT 3

WORDS OF GOD’S WORLD

Look up on a clear night and you are looking at a page of Latin. The planets wear Roman names: Mercury the fast messenger, Venus the bright one, Mars the red one, Jupiter the king-sized one, Saturn the slow old one. They wear those names because, for many centuries, the people who studied the stars wrote their books in Latin. In this unit you will learn the words of earth and sky, terra, silva, insula, and caelum as a sight word, with your friends stella and luna shining among them, and you will make a night-sky page of your own: white stars on black paper, labeled in Latin. At the heart of the lesson is Psalm 19: the Romans named the planets for their gods, but we know whose glory the heavens declare.

Then come the animals, led by the unlikeliest heroes in Roman history. In 390 B.C., enemies climbed Rome's great hill in the dark of night. The watchdogs slept, but the sacred geese of Juno's temple did not: they honked and flapped and woke a soldier named Marcus Manlius, and Rome was saved, by geese. Romans told that story for centuries, and it will hand you your animal words: equus the horse, porcus the pig, agnus the lamb, aquila the eagle, and canis the dog, a sight word that points straight back to CAVE CANEM. You will make animal cards and play a barnyard guessing game in Latin with your family.

PREREQUISITES

- Can say the five vowel sounds and the four letter rules without help
- Knows the Unit 1 and Unit 2 words by flashcard
- Keeps the daily greetings going: salve, vale, gratias

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can name the five planets the Romans named and tell whose names they wear.
- ☐ I can say the earth-and-sky words with meanings: terra, stella, luna, silva, insula, and read caelum as a sight word.
- ☐ I made my night-sky page with Latin labels and can read every label aloud.
- ☐ I can tell the story of the geese that saved Rome in 390 B.C.
- ☐ I can say the animal words with meanings: equus, porcus, agnus, aquila, and read canis as a sight word.
- ☐ I can say Psalm 19:1 and tell what it means about the night sky.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- ***Minimus: Starting out in Latin*, by Barbara Bell:** A comic-style Latin book about a real mouse-sized hero: Minimus the mouse, who lives with a Roman family at a fort in Britain. A delightful read-alongside for the rest of this course.
- ***Famous Men of Rome*, by John Haaren and A. B. Poland:** Free online; search archive.org for the 1904 edition. Short read-aloud chapters of the great Roman stories, told for children; the world of the geese story lives in its early chapters.
- **A children's atlas or a planisphere (star wheel):** From your shelf or library. An atlas finds islands and forests for insula and silva; a planisphere turns the night-sky page into real stargazing.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch has no ties to these authors, publishers or companies.

3.1 Earth and Sky

3 sessions of 20–30 minutes

3.2 The Animals That Saved Rome

3 sessions of 20–30 minutes

UNIT 3 REVIEW

Ask each question out loud and let the student answer out loud; a parent may write the answers down. The review is worth 30 points. Keep it cheerful: it is a recital, not an exam.

1. **5 pts**

Name the five planets the Romans named, and tell why the planets have Latin names at all.

2. **5 pts**

Give the English for: terra, silva, insula, and read the sight word caelum aloud.

3. **5 pts**

Say Psalm 19:1, and tell what it means when we look at the night sky.

4. **5 pts**

Tell the story of the geese that saved Rome: the year, the night, and how it ended.

5. **5 pts**

Give the English for: equus, porcus, agnus, aquila, and read the sight word canis aloud.

6. **5 pts**

Give one English word that hides each root: terra, luna, equus.

ANSWER KEY

1. Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn. Stargazers wrote their books and maps in Latin for centuries, so the Latin names spread everywhere and stuck.
2. Earth (land), forest, island; caelum is KYE-lum, sky or heaven.
3. 'The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.' The sky is not about the Roman gods whose names it wears; it declares the glory of the true God who made it.
4. In 390 B.C., enemies climbed the Capitol's cliff at night; the watchdogs slept, but Juno's sacred geese honked and flapped, waking Marcus Manlius, who reached the cliff edge first and threw the climbers back. The hill held and Rome was saved.
5. Horse, pig, lamb, eagle; canis is KAH-nis, dog, the dog of CAVE CANEM.
6. Examples: terrarium (or territory), lunar, equestrian.

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE CREATURE CHART

Make a poster of God's creatures with their Latin names. Across the top, letter the title: LAUDATE DOMINUM, praise the Lord (from Psalm 148, the psalm where all the creatures praise their Maker), or simply God's Creatures in Latin. Then give each animal its place: equus, porcus, agnus, aquila and canis, each with a bold drawing, its Latin name in capitals, its English name small underneath, and one English derivative word on a ribbon or banner beside it (equestrian, pork, Agnus Dei, the constellation Aquila, canine). Add the honking heroes: a corner panel of the geese of the Capitol with one sentence of their story in your own words. Present the chart to the family: say every Latin name the classical way, tell the geese story from memory, and finish with Psalm 148:13. Hang the chart beside the derivative-rich night-sky page; your wall is becoming a Latin museum.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
All five creatures	Equus, porcus, agnus, aquila and canis each appear with a clear drawing, correct Latin spelling and English meaning.
Derivative ribbons	Each animal carries one honest English derivative or phrase, correctly matched.
The geese panel	The corner panel tells the 390 B.C. story in the student's own words, in one or two sentences.
Presentation	The student presented the chart aloud, pronounced every Latin name the classical way, and told the geese story from memory.

UNIT 3 • WORDS OF GOD'S WORLD • LESSON 3.1 OF 10 • 3 SESSIONS OF 20–30 MINUTES

3.1 EARTH AND SKY

OBJECTIVES

- Tell why the planets wear Roman names, and name the five the Romans knew.
- Say the new words with meanings: terra, silva, insula, with stella and luna reviewed and caelum as a sight word.
- Spot the derivative seeds: terrarium, stellar, lunar, and the insula hiding in peninsula.
- Make a night-sky page labeled in Latin, and say Psalm 19:1.

Warm-up. Run the deck, then name every planet you can. Listen to them as you say them: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn. Do you hear it? Those are not English names. Tonight, when the stars come out, they will be wearing Latin, and today you find out why.

WATCH

How Do Planets Get Their Names? We Asked a NASA Expert

NASA · 1:46

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3_tfvsNCmU

WHEN TO WATCH

After the story paragraph. A real NASA scientist explains in under two minutes why the planets carry Roman names and who chooses names today.

Note: Short and straight from the space agency itself. Listen for the rule that new discoveries still get names from the old Roman stories.

BACKUP VIDEO

How Did The Planets Get Their Names?

Name Explain · 8:27

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sLod83ffXI>

A longer tour through every planet's name, one by one. Made for a general audience rather than for children, so watch it together and stop when you have had enough; the planet-by-planet first half is the useful part.

KEY TERMS

planet

One of the wanderers of the night sky, like Mars or Jupiter. The five you can see without a telescope all wear Roman names.

terra

Earth, land, ground. A terrarium is a little glass world of earth, just as an aquarium is a little world of water.

insula

Island: land with water all around it.
You can hear it hiding in the English
word peninsula, an almost-island.

caelum

Sky, heaven. Say it KYE-lum, with the ae
rule. This one is a sight word: learn to
recognize and say it, no card needed.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

terra**TER-rah**

noun

earth, land

ENGLISH terrain**silva****SEEL-wah**

noun

a forest

ENGLISH Pennsylvania**īnsula****EEN-su-lah**

noun

an island

ENGLISH peninsula**sōl****SOHL**

noun

the sun

ENGLISH solar**nūbēs****NOO-bays**

noun

a cloud

Mercurius

mer-KU-ree-us

name

Mercury, the swift planet

ENGLISH Mercury

Venus

WEH-nus

name

Venus, the bright planet

ENGLISH Venus

Mars

MAHRS

name

Mars, the red planet

ENGLISH Mars

Iuppiter

YUP-pee-ter

name

Jupiter, the great planet

ENGLISH Jupiter

Saturnus

sah-TUR-nus

name

Saturn, the slow planet

ENGLISH Saturn

astrum

AHST-rum

noun

a star, a constellation

ENGLISH astronomy

CORE IDEAS

The story. Long before telescopes, people watched five bright lights that wandered among the stars, and the Romans gave them names. The quick little one that hurries closest to the sun they called Mercury, after their swift messenger. The one that shines brightest and most beautiful, Venus. The red one, Mars. The biggest and grandest, Jupiter, the king of their gods. The slow, far one, Saturn, the old one. When astronomers found new planets much later, they kept the custom: Neptune for the sea-blue one, and even the moons and mountains of other worlds still get Latin names today.

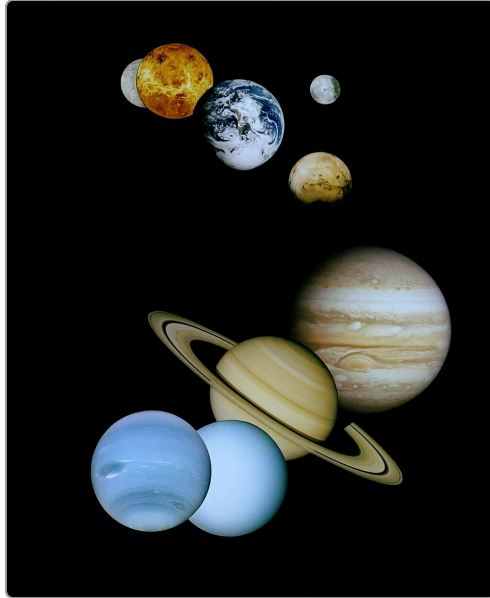
Why Latin in the sky, and whose glory? For hundreds of years, the people who studied the stars, in Italy, England, Poland, everywhere, all wrote their books in Latin so they could read each other's work, and the Latin names stuck; even the place where astronauts first landed on the moon is called Mare Tranquillitatis, the Sea of Tranquility. One thing must be said plainly, and then the sky is yours: the Romans named the planets for their gods, but their gods were stories, not the living God. We keep the old names the way we keep old street names, as history; and when we look up, Psalm 19:1 tells the truth: the heavens declare the glory of God, the real Maker of Mercury, Venus, Mars and all the rest.

How Latin works: words of earth and sky. Your new words. *Terra* (TER-rah), earth or land: a terrarium is a little glass world of earth. *Silva* (SIL-wah), forest: remember the v rule. *Insula* (EEN-soo-lah), island: hiding inside peninsula, an almost-island. And one sight word: *caelum* (KYE-lum), sky, heaven. Your old friends join in: *stella*, star, gives English stellar, and *luna*, moon, gives lunar. And here is the second peek at Latin's little secret: one star is *stella*, a sky full is *stellae*. Endings again! Smile, point at it, and move on.

Say it out loud. Chant from the ground up: terra, earth! silva, forest! insula, island! luna, moon! stella, star! caelum, sky! Then say the five Roman planet names slowly, listening for the Latin in them. Finish with Psalm 19:1 out loud: 'The heavens declare the glory of God.' That is the sentence to carry outside tonight.

Try it. This week you make a night-sky page: black paper, white stars, and Latin labels, stella on a star, luna on the moon, caelum across the top, terra along the bottom, with silva and insula drawn into the dark land below. If the night is clear, take it outside and name what you see, in Latin.

PICTURE STUDY



The Solar System Montage, NASA, About 1999 · Montage of spacecraft photographs · NASA

Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain

These are not paintings: they are real photographs, taken by NASA spacecraft that flew for years to get them, and set together in one tall picture. Every world you see wears a Roman name. The Romans themselves only ever saw these planets as bright dots of light; here you see the faces behind the names they chose, the red one, the giant one, the ringed one.

Look closely

- Find the red planet. The Romans saw that color with their own eyes and named it Mars.
- Find the biggest planet, striped with bands of cloud: Jupiter, named for the king of the Roman gods because it outshone and outsized the rest.
- Find the planet with rings: Saturn, the slow old wanderer. Its rings are made of countless pieces of ice.
- Find the blue one with white clouds: terra, our Earth, the only one of these worlds with a Latin word, not a Roman god, for its name.

Talk about it

1. The Romans named the planets after their gods. What do we know about who really made them? Say Psalm 19:1 as your answer.
2. Why do you think the quick planet nearest the sun got the messenger's name, and the biggest got the king's?

3. Spacecraft flew for years to take these photographs. What does that tell you about how much people want to see God's sky up close?

ACTIVITY

The night-sky page

Tonight you make the sky speak Latin on paper, and then, if the clouds allow, for real. Black paper, white stars, Latin labels: the oldest picture book there is.

You will need

- A sheet of black or dark blue paper
- A white crayon, white pencil or chalk
- Scraps of light paper and glue, or a light-colored pencil, for labels
- 3 index cards for the new words (terra, silva, insula)

Steps

1. Lay the black paper tall. Along the very bottom, draw the dark line of the land: a hill, a forest of little triangle trees, and, if you like, an island in a strip of sea.
2. Fill the sky with white stars, big and small, and one grand moon. Press hard; stars should blaze.
3. Now label in Latin: stella on your brightest star, luna on the moon, caelum across the top of the sky, terra on the land, silva on the forest, insula on the island.
4. Letter the labels in capitals and read each one aloud as you place it.
5. Across the bottom, copy the heart of the lesson: CAELI ENARRANT GLORIAM DEI, or simply write Psalm 19:1 in English: 'The heavens declare the glory of God.'
6. Make the three new flashcards (terra, silva, insula) and add them to the deck.
7. If the night is clear, take the page outside, find the real luna and the real stellae, and name them in Latin, out loud, to whoever came with you.

Tips

- A sky full of stars is stellae; label one star stella and a cluster stellae if you want the little wonder on your page.
- No black paper? Color a sheet with heavy black crayon, or use dark blue; the stars matter more than the paper.
- Caelum is KYE-lum. Say it as you letter it; the ae rule needs exercise.

Check your work

- ☐ My page has all six labels: stella, luna, caelum, terra, silva, insula, and I read them all aloud.
- ☐ Psalm 19:1 is written across the bottom.
- ☐ My three new flashcards are in the deck, and I ran the whole deck.
- ☐ I named the real moon and stars in Latin outside, or I am waiting for the first clear night to do it.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. Write the new words with meanings, dated: terra, silva, insula, with caelum written large as a sight word and its sound: KYE-lum.
2. List the five Roman planet names with one fact each: the fast one, the bright one, the red one, the big one, the slow one.
3. Copy: stella, one star; stellae, many stars. Latin changes the ending.
4. Copy Psalm 19:1 in your best hand, and decorate the margin with stars.

From history. The great star atlases of the 1600s were printed entirely in Latin, with the constellations drawn as grand figures and every label in the old language, and the custom never ended: to this day, the official names of moons, craters and the plains of Mars are given in Latin by the astronomers' international union. The first place humans ever stood beyond Earth has a Latin name: Mare Tranquillitatis, the Sea of Tranquility.

Practice habit. From tonight on, when you happen to see the moon or the first star of evening, name it in Latin, luna, stella, out loud if you can, under your breath if you must. The sky is now part of your flashcard deck, and it reviews you every clear night.

Example 1. A terrarium and an aquarium sit side by side in a classroom. Using their Latin roots, which is the land world, and which is the water world?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Find the roots: terra, earth or land; aqua, water.
2. The -arium ending means a place for.
3. Match them: terrarium, a place of land; aquarium, a place of water.

Answer: The terrarium holds the land world (terra) and the aquarium holds the water world (aqua). The Latin tells you before you even look inside.

Example 2. Why is the red planet called Mars?

▼ **Show solution**

1. The Romans could see its reddish color with their own eyes.
2. They matched the color to one of their gods and gave it that god's name.
3. Astronomers kept the Roman name because their books were in Latin for centuries.

Answer: The Romans named the red wanderer Mars, and the name stuck because the stargazers wrote in Latin. We keep it as history, knowing who truly made the planet.

Example 3. Which Latin word hides in *peninsula*, and why does it fit a place like Florida?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Spot the root: insula, island.
2. Pen- comes from paene, Latin for almost.
3. An almost-island: land with water almost all around it.

Answer: Insula. A peninsula like Florida is an almost-island, water on nearly every side.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** Give the English: terra, silva.

▼ **Show answer**

Earth (land), forest.

2. **Easy** Which word means island: insula or stella?

▼ **Show answer**

Insula. Stella is a star.

3. **Easy** Read this sight word aloud and give its meaning: caelum.

▼ **Show answer**

KYE-lum: sky, heaven. The ae says eye and the c is hard.

4. **Medium** Name the five planets the Romans named, and tell which one is the red one.

▼ **Show answer**

Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn. Mars is the red one.

5. **Medium** Match the root to its English child: terra, stella, luna — lunar, terrarium, stellar.

▼ **Show answer**

Terra gives terrarium, stella gives stellar, luna gives lunar.

6. **Medium** Why do the planets have Latin names instead of English ones?

▼ **Show answer**

Because for centuries the people who studied the stars wrote their books and maps in Latin, so the Latin names went around the world and stuck.

7. **Hard** One star is stella; a sky full is stellae. Where have you met this trick before, and what is Latin doing?

▼ **Show answer**

With rosa and rosae at the table. Latin changes the word's ending to show more than one, the way English adds an s. We just notice it; later grades will explain it.

8. **Challenge** The Romans named the planets for their gods, yet we still use the names. How can a Christian use the name Mars and still tell the truth about the sky? Use Psalm 19:1.

▼ **Show answer**

The names are history, like old street names; using them does not make the old gods real. The truth about the sky is Psalm 19:1: the heavens declare the glory of God, who made every planet the Romans ever named.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying silva with an English v. It is SIL-wah; the forest sounds softer in Latin.
- Reading caelum as SEE-lum or KAY-lum. The ae says eye: KYE-lum.
- Mixing terra and terrarium: terra is the land itself; the -arium makes it a little glass place for land.
- Treating the planet names as just English. Say them slowly, Mercury, Venus, Mars, and hear the Latin underneath.

Make it a game · Name the Sky. Spread out cards for terra, silva, insula, stella, luna and caelum. The parent says a meaning and you slap the right word card, saying the Latin out loud. Then try it the other way: the parent says the Latin and you name the English. Add the five planets the Romans knew, as many as you can remember in 30 seconds.

Scripture. “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.” (Psalm 19:1, KJV)

This is the heart of the lesson. The Romans looked up and named the planets for their gods; we look at the very same sky and hear it declaring the glory of the God who made it, and them, and us.

UNIT 3 · WORDS OF GOD'S WORLD · LESSON 3.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 20-30 MINUTES

3.2 THE ANIMALS THAT SAVED ROME

OBJECTIVES

- Tell the story of the sacred geese who woke Marcus Manlius and saved Rome in 390 B.C.

- Say the animal words with meanings: equus, porcus, agnus, aquila, and read canis as a sight word.
- Connect canis back to CAVE CANEM, and spot derivative seeds like equestrian and canine.
- Make Latin animal cards and play the barnyard guessing game with the family.

Warm-up. Run the deck, then think of the noisiest animal you have ever heard. A rooster? A donkey? Now hear this: the city of Rome, the biggest city in the world, was once saved from its enemies by the honking of geese. True story, the Romans said, and they told it for five hundred years. Today you learn it, and the animal words that come with it.

WATCH

How the Sacred Geese of Juno Saved the City of Rome | Old Western Culture

Roman Roads Press · 3:35

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsIZOXha3bs>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the story paragraph. A teacher from a classical Christian curriculum tells the geese story in under four minutes; listen for Marcus Manlius and the night climb.

Note: Roman Roads Press makes classical courses for Christian families; this clip is from their ancient history series and tells the story just as Livy, Rome's historian, handed it down.

BACKUP VIDEO

Manlius and the Sacred Geese: The Legendary Defense That Saved Ancient Rome

Imperial Chronicles · 3:47

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ql5BonLuyU>

A second short telling of the same night, if you want to hear the story twice before telling it back. Made for a general audience; preview or watch together as usual.

KEY TERMS

the Capitol

Rome's great hill with the temple of Juno on top: the city's strong place, where the Romans held out in 390 B.C.

Marcus Manlius

The Roman soldier the geese woke. He reached the cliff edge first and held it until the other defenders came.

sacred geese

The geese kept at Juno's temple on the Capitol. Even when food ran short, the Romans would not eat them, and that obedience saved the city.

canis

Dog. A sight word that you have already read on a doormat: CAVE CANEM, beware of the dog. English says canine.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

equus

EH-kwus

noun

a horse

ENGLISH equine

porcus

POR-kus

noun

a pig

ENGLISH pork

agnus

AHG-nus

noun

a lamb

aquila

AH-kwee-lah

noun

an eagle

ENGLISH aquiline

ānser

AHN-ser

noun

a goose

bōs

BOHS

noun

an ox or a cow

ENGLISH bovine

ovīs

O-wees

noun

a sheep

ENGLISH ovine

gallīna

gahl-LEE-nah

noun

a hen

avis

AH-wees

noun

a bird

ENGLISH aviation

piscis

PEES-kees

noun

a fish

ENGLISH piscine

fēlēs

FAY-lays

noun

a cat

ENGLISH feline

CORE IDEAS

The story. In 390 B.C., long before Rome was great, an enemy army took the city, and the last Romans held out on the Capitol, the steep hill at Rome's heart. One black night, the enemy found a hidden way up the cliff. They climbed so quietly that the guards heard nothing, and even the watchdogs slept on. But at the top of the hill stood the temple of Juno, and around it lived the temple's sacred geese. Geese miss nothing. As the first climbers reached the top, the geese burst out honking and beating their wings, a feathered alarm bell, and the soldier Marcus Manlius leapt from his bed, reached the cliff edge first, and threw the climbers back. The defenders rushed to him, the hill held, and Rome was saved, by geese.

Why they told it. Romans told this story for five hundred years, and Livy, their great historian, wrote it down. Here is the part they loved best: food on the hill had run desperately short, and still the Romans had not eaten the sacred geese. The watchdogs, who were supposed to guard, failed; the geese, who owed nothing, saved everyone. Even pagan Rome understood something true there: deliverance can come from small, unlikely watchmen, and faithfulness in hard times is never wasted.

How Latin works: animal words. Your new words come in from the barnyard. *Equus* (EH-kwoos), horse: an equestrian is a horse rider. *Porcus* (POR-koos), pig: English pork is simply pig-meat wearing its Latin name. *Agnus* (AHG-noos), lamb: in church music, Agnus Dei means Lamb of God. *Aquila* (AH-kwih-lah), eagle: the bird the Roman army carried on its standards, and a constellation still called Aquila flies overhead. And one sight word: *canis* (KAH-nis), dog, the very dog of CAVE CANEM. There is even a dog in the sky: the constellation Canis Major, the Big Dog.

Say it out loud. Chant the barnyard: equus, horse! porcus, pig! agnus, lamb! aquila, eagle! canis, dog! Then play echo: a parent says the English, you shoot back the Latin, faster and faster. Finish by reading your doormat sentence one more time, now knowing both words: CAVE CANEM, beware of the canis.

Try it. This week you make animal cards, with your own drawings, and teach them to the family by playing the barnyard guessing game: act out or sound out an animal, and the family must answer in Latin. At the unit's end, your creature chart gathers all God's creatures you have named so far in one poster.

PICTURE STUDY



A Farmer with His Flock of Geese, Percy Benzie Aberly, Early 1900s · Photograph · Boughrood, Wales; now in the National Library of Wales

Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), CC0 (National Library of Wales)

This photograph was taken on a farm in Wales about a hundred years ago: a farmer named Henry Pritchard, standing calm as a general among his honking army of geese. Look at them long enough and you can almost hear them. These are the same loud, bossy, sharp-eyed birds that lived around Juno's temple on the Capitol, and one glance tells you why nothing, and nobody, climbed into this farmyard unannounced.

Look closely

- Count the geese, or try to. How many necks are stretched up tall, on watch?
- Find the farmer. He stands still while the flock swirls; who is really in charge of this yard?
- Look at the geese nearest the camera: heads up, eyes sharp. Geese notice everything, which is exactly why they made good watchmen.
- This is a photograph, not a painting: a real morning, about a hundred years ago, caught in black and white.

Talk about it

1. After seeing this flock, why do you think the geese heard the climbers in 390 B.C. when the dogs did not?

2. Farmers for thousands of years have kept geese partly as guards. What makes a goose a better alarm than a lock?
3. The Romans would not eat the sacred geese even when food ran short. What does that kind of keeping-faith look like in your life?

ACTIVITY

Animal cards and the barnyard game

Five animals walk into your flashcard deck today, each with its own portrait, drawn by you. Then the whole family plays the barnyard guessing game, and you are the judge, because only you hold the cards.

You will need

- 5 index cards for the animal cards
- Pencil and crayons
- Your flashcard deck
- A family with at least one willing player

Steps

1. Make the five animal cards: equus, porcus, agnus, aquila, canis on the front, each with your best drawing of the animal; the English on the back.
2. Drill yourself first: look at each drawing, say the Latin, flip to check. Three times through.
3. Teach the family the five words, holding up each card like a teacher.
4. Play the barnyard game, round one: you make an animal's sound or act it out (gallop, oink, soar), and the family must call out the Latin: equus! porcus! aquila!
5. Round two: swap. A family member acts; you answer in Latin, with the card held up as proof.
6. Round three, the hard round: English words only. Someone says 'pork', 'equestrian', 'canine', or 'Agnus Dei', and the player must name the Latin animal hiding inside.
7. Add the cards to your deck and run the whole deck; it now holds people, places, tables, skies and a barnyard.

Tips

- Draw boldly: a pig you can recognize across the room beats a masterpiece nobody can see.
- The goose did not get a Latin card; she is the storyteller, not the word list. If anyone asks, tell them the story instead.

- Aquila is AH-kwih-lah, stress up front, like AH-kwah: water-sound, eagle-word.

Check your work

- ☐ My five animal cards are drawn, and I can say all five with meanings.
- ☐ The family played at least two rounds of the barnyard game.
- ☐ I can connect canis to CAVE CANEM and say both words correctly.
- ☐ The cards are in my deck, and I ran the whole deck.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. Write the animal words with meanings, dated: equus, porcus, agnus, aquila, and canis as a sight word, each with a tiny drawing.
2. Draw the night on the Capitol: the cliff, the climbers, the honking geese, Marcus Manlius running. A comic strip of three boxes works beautifully.
3. Copy: CAVE CANEM, beware of the dog, and write under it: canis means dog.
4. Write one sentence about why the Romans would not eat the sacred geese, and what happened because of it.

From history. The story of the geese comes to us from Livy, the Roman historian who gathered Rome's old stories into one great book while Jesus was a child in Nazareth. Afterward, the Romans honored the Capitol's geese for centuries, and even pagan Rome drew the right moral: watchfulness is a gift, and deliverance can come from small, unlikely watchmen.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. An 'equestrian statue' stands in the town square. Without seeing it, what do you know is in the statue, and how?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Find the Latin root: equus, horse.
2. Equestrian means having to do with horses or horse riders.
3. So the statue must include a horse, almost always with a rider.

Answer: A horse (with its rider). The Latin root equus tells you before you ever see the square.

Example 2. Why do we call pig-meat 'pork' when the animal is called a pig?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Find the Latin root: porcus, pig.
2. English kept its own word for the animal in the barnyard.
3. But the meat's name came into English from Latin's daughter, French.

Answer: Pork is porcus come down through French: the pig in the yard speaks English, and the pork on the table speaks Latin.

Example 3. In the story of 390 B.C., the dogs failed and the geese succeeded. Retell the key moment in two sentences, using the word canis once.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Set the night scene: climbers on the cliff, everyone asleep.
2. Name who failed and who sounded the alarm.
3. End with Manlius and the hill held.

Answer: In the dark, the enemy climbed the cliff so quietly that even the canis, the watchdog, slept on. But Juno's geese burst out honking, Marcus Manlius leapt to the cliff edge, and Rome was saved.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** Give the English: equus, porcus.

▼ **Show answer**

Horse, pig.

2. **Easy** Which word means eagle: aquila or agnus?

▼ **Show answer**

Aquila. Agnus is the lamb.

3. **Easy** What does canis mean, and where did you first read it?

▼ **Show answer**

Dog. On the Pompeii doormat: CAVE CANEM, beware of the dog.

4. **Medium** In the story of 390 B.C., who slept, who sounded the alarm, and who reached the cliff edge first?

▼ **Show answer**

The watchdogs slept; the sacred geese of Juno's temple sounded the alarm; the soldier Marcus Manlius reached the cliff edge first.

5. **Medium** Match the Latin animal to the English word that hides it: equus, canis, agnus — canine, Agnus Dei, equestrian.

▼ **Show answer**

Equus hides in equestrian, canis in canine, agnus in Agnus Dei (Lamb of God).

6. **Medium** Say these the Roman way: equus, aquila, agnus.

▼ **Show answer**

EH-kwoos, AH-kwih-lah, AHG-noos: every letter sounded, stress up front.

7. **Hard** The Romans were starving on the hill, yet they had not eaten the sacred geese. How did that faithfulness come back to save them?

▼ **Show answer**

Because the geese were still alive on the hill, they were there to honk the alarm on the night of the climb. The Romans' keeping-faith in hard times turned out to be the very thing that saved the city.

8. **Challenge** The Roman army carried the aquila, the eagle, on its standards, and the United States also chose an eagle. Why do you think nations keep choosing this bird, and what Latin word will you think of now when you see one?

▼ **Show answer**

Answers vary: the eagle flies highest, sees farthest and fears little, so nations borrow its strength as a sign. And the word is aquila, flying from Rome's standards to the back of the quarter in your pocket.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Mixing agnus (lamb) and aquila (eagle) because both start with a. The lamb is the little word; the eagle gets the longer one with wings.
- Saying equus as EE-kwus. It is EH-kwoos: short, quick e, like the horse itself.
- Telling the story as if the geese fought the battle. The geese gave the alarm; Manlius and the defenders held the cliff. Each did the part given them.

- Forgetting that canis is a sight word: recognize it, say it, no flashcard drill needed.

Make it a game • Goose Alarm. Lay out cards for equus, porcus, agnus, aquila and canis. Play the story: you are the sleeping Marcus Manlius, eyes closed, while the parent honks like a goose and holds up a card. You wake up, say the Latin word and its meaning, and save Rome. Wrong answers go back to sleep. Swap roles and play again.

Scripture. “Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl: ... Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.” (Psalm 148:10, 13, KJV)

The psalm calls every creature, horses and pigs and lambs and eagles and yes, geese, to praise their Maker. The Romans thought Juno's geese saved them; we know who made geese watchful in the first place.

UNIT 4

COUNTING LIKE A ROMAN

Most things from ancient Rome are in museums, but Roman numbers never retired. They are on clock faces and church cornerstones, in book chapters and movie credits, on Super Bowls and on grandfathers (John Smith III). In this unit you will learn to count to ten the way a Roman child did, unus, duo, tres, quattuor, quinque, sex, septem, octo, novem, decem, and to read and build the numerals I to X with just three letters: I, V and X. Then you will go hunting: a numeral scavenger hunt through the house and the bookshelf, and a paper clock face of your own, with a famous London clock as your picture study.

Then the calendar takes off its mask. January is Janus, the Roman doorkeeper god of beginnings, looking back at the old year and forward to the new; March is Mars; July was renamed for Julius Caesar and August for Augustus. And September through December are simply Latin for seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth, left over from when the Roman year began in March, which is why October, the 'eighth' month, is our tenth! You will learn annus, the year, and make a Latin birthday calendar for your whole family, so that every birthday from now on comes with its own story.

PREREQUISITES

- Can count to ten in English and write the digits 1–10
- Knows the Unit 1–3 words by flashcard and keeps the daily greetings going
- Can say the five vowel sounds and the four letter rules without help

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can count from unus to decem out loud, in order, from memory.
- ☐ I can read and build the Roman numerals I to X, including the one-before tricks IV and IX.
- ☐ I found Roman numerals in the real world on my scavenger hunt and read them aloud.
- ☐ I can tell the stories of January, March, July and August, and the secret of September through December.
- ☐ I know annus means year, and I can hear it inside annual and anniversary.
- ☐ I made the family birthday calendar with each month's Latin story.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **Latin Launchpad**: Free. Our companion practice site; its grade 3 word packs cover most of this course's words, and the matching games drill the counting words happily. A good Session 2 finisher.
- ***Minimus: Starting out in Latin*, by Barbara Bell**: The mouse-at-the-Roman-fort comic continues; its family scenes and little Latin labels pair well with the counting and calendar weeks.
- ***Song School Latin 1* (Classical Academic Press)**: The songs-and-chants program for this age includes counting songs; a sung number sticks faster than a drilled one.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch has no ties to these authors, publishers or companies.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

4.1 Unus to Decem

3 sessions of 20–30 minutes

UNIT 4 REVIEW

Ask each question out loud and let the student answer out loud; a parent may write the answers down. The review is worth 30 points. Keep it cheerful: it is a recital, not an exam.

1. (5 pts)

Count from unus to decem out loud.

2. (5 pts)

Read these numerals and explain the trick in the last two: VII, X, IV, IX.

3. (5 pts)

Write (or build with fingers and say) the numerals for 3, 6 and 9.

4. (5 pts)

Tell the stories of January and March.

5. (5 pts)

Why does October, which means 'eighth,' sit tenth in our year? And which two months are named for real men?

6. (5 pts)

What does annus mean? Give two English words built on it.

ANSWER KEY

1. Unus, duo, tres, quattuor, quinque, sex, septem, octo, novem, decem.
2. Seven, ten, four, nine. IV and IX use the one-before trick: a smaller numeral in front takes itself away (one-before-five is four, one-before-ten is nine).
3. III, VI, IX.
4. January is named for Janus, the Romans' two-faced doorkeeper story, looking back at the old year and forward to the new. March is Mars's month, the first month of the old Roman year, when armies marched out after winter.
5. The old Roman year began in March, so October was eighth; when the start moved to January every numbered month slid two places but kept its name. July is named for Julius Caesar and August for Augustus.
6. Year; annual and anniversary.

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE FAMILY TIMELINE IN ROMAN NUMERALS

Make a timeline of your family written the Roman way. Draw a long line across a sheet or poster, and mark on it each family member, oldest to youngest, with three things: their name, their birth year written in Roman numerals (a parent helps with the big numerals: M is 1,000, CM is 900, XX is 20, and together you can crack any year), and their age right now written in numerals you can build yourself; keep most of your own work between I and XXX. Add the family's great days if you like: a wedding anniversary (annus at work!), the year you moved to your house. Decorate the line's ends with a rising sun and a star, and letter the title in capitals: **FAMILIA NOSTRA**, our family. Present it at dinner: read each person's numerals aloud, youngest to oldest, and let everyone check their own age in Roman. Keep it for the Family Latin Evening.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Everyone on the line	Every family member appears in order with name, birth year in numerals (parent-assisted) and current age in numerals.
The student's own numerals	All ages and small numbers (I-XXX) are built correctly by the student, including any one-before tricks.
Craftsmanship	The line is straight and ordered, the lettering is bold Roman capitals, and the title FAMILIA NOSTRA crowns it.
The reading	The student read the numerals aloud at the presentation and explained one one-before trick to the family.

4.1 UNUS TO DECEM

OBJECTIVES

- Count from unus to decem out loud, in order.
- Read and build the Roman numerals I to X using I, V and X, including IV and IX.
- Spot derivative seeds: unicorn, duet, triple, and more.
- Find Roman numerals in the real world and read them aloud.

Warm-up. Run the deck, then look at the nearest clock, book or movie case.

Somewhere in this house, Rome is still counting: on a clock face, in chapter headings, at the end of movie credits, maybe in a grandfather's name. Today you learn to count like a Roman, and then you go hunting for Rome's numbers in your own home.

WATCH

Roman Numerals For Kids | Elementary Math Lesson

Homeschool Pop • 6:06

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

WHEN TO WATCH

After the How Latin works paragraph. Count along out loud, and watch for the one-before trick that makes IV and IX.

Note: Made for exactly this age. The video covers the numeral letters; the Latin counting words, unus to decem, are this lesson's own addition.

BACKUP VIDEO

How to Read Roman Numerals

Socratica Kids • 4:53

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49oWYxExWKE>

A second, slightly quicker pass at reading the numerals, good for Session 3 review before the scavenger hunt.

KEY TERMS

Roman numerals

Rome's way of writing numbers with letters: I is 1, V is 5, X is 10. Still at work on clocks, chapters and Super Bowls.

the one-before trick

A smaller numeral in front takes itself away: IV is one-before-five, 4; IX is one-before-ten, 9.

unus

One. A unicorn has one horn, and a unicycle one wheel: unus is hiding in both.

decem

Ten. It hides inside decimal, our ten-based way of counting, and inside December, which you will unmask next lesson.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

ūnus

OO-nus

number

one

ENGLISH unit

duo

DU-o

number

two

ENGLISH dual

trēs

TRAYS

number

three

ENGLISH trio

quattuor

KWAHT-tu-or

number

four

ENGLISH quartet

quīnque

KWEEN-kweh

number

five

sex

SEKS

number

six

septem

SEP-tem

number

seven

ENGLISH September

octō

OK-toh

number

eight

ENGLISH October

novem

NO-wem

number

nine

ENGLISH November

decem

DEH-kem

number

ten

ENGLISH December

centum

KEN-tum

number

one hundred

ENGLISH century

annus

AHN-nus

noun

a year

ENGLISH annual

CORE IDEAS

The story. The Roman Empire ended long ago, but nobody ever told its numbers. Look around: clock faces say XII at the top, books call their chapters I, II and III, movie credits hide the year they were made in numerals like MMXX, the Super Bowl numbers itself in them, and a boy named after his father and grandfather writes III after his name like a little Roman. Roman numerals survived because they are handsome, solemn and hard to beat for carving: all straight lines, no curves, which is exactly what you want when your pen is a chisel and your paper is stone.

How Latin works: counting out loud. Here is how a Roman child counted on fingers, two thousand years ago: *unus* (OO-noos), one; *duo* (DOO-oh), two; *tres* (TRAYS), three; *quattuor* (KWAHT-too-or), four; *quinque* (KWEEN-kweh), five; *sex* (sehks), six; *septem* (SEP-tem), seven; *octo* (OK-toh), eight; *novem* (NO-wem), nine; *decem* (DEH-kem), ten. Hear the English hiding in them already: *unus* gives unicorn, one horn; *duo* gives duet, two singers; *tres* gives triple; *octo* gives octave. And *novem*, *octo*, *septem* and *decem* are keeping a calendar secret that cracks open next lesson.

Three letters do the counting. To write numbers, Rome needed only three letters for everything up to ten: I is one, V is five, X is ten. Stack and add: II is two, III is three, VI

is six (five and one), VII seven, VIII eight. Then the clever bit, the one-before trick: a small numeral standing in front of a bigger one takes itself away. IV is one-before-five: four. IX is one-before-ten: nine. That is the whole machine; you can now read any clock face, chapter list or cornerstone up to X, and far beyond with the same tricks.

Say it out loud. Chant the counting words to a steady clap, unus, duo, tres..., three times through, then backward from decem if you dare. Then read this row aloud, numeral by numeral: I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X. Finally, play fingers: a parent flashes fingers, you answer in Latin. Quinque! Octo! Decem!

Try it. This week is the numeral scavenger hunt: comb the house, the bookshelf and the kitchen for Roman numerals in the wild, and log every find in your notebook. Then make a paper clock face with Roman numerals, and decide for yourself the great clockmakers' question: IIII or IV?

PICTURE STUDY



The Great Clock of Westminster, Designed by Augustus Pugin, 1859; photographed after its 2017–2022 restoration · Clock dial of cast iron, opal glass and gold leaf · Elizabeth Tower (Big Ben), Houses of Parliament, London

Photo: ketrin1407, via [Wikimedia Commons](#), CC BY 2.0

This is one of the most famous clock faces on earth: the Great Clock of Westminster in London, which most people call Big Ben (though Big Ben is really the giant bell inside). The dial is taller than a house, built in 1859 from cast iron and hundreds of panes of glass, and in this photograph it has just been restored to its first colors: deep blue and bright gold. And how does the most famous modern clock in the world tell its hours? In Roman numerals, of course. Rome has been keeping time on this tower since the days of your great-great-great-grandparents.

Look closely

- Read the hours around the dial out loud, starting from the top: XII, I, II, III... all the way around.
- Find the four o'clock mark. This clock writes it IV, the one-before-five trick, though many old clocks write IIII instead. Clockmakers have argued about this for centuries.
- Look at the hands: the minute hand is as long as a small car. Imagine polishing the gold on those.
- Count the little panes of glass in one section if you can; each dial holds hundreds, glowing from inside at night so London can read Rome's numbers

in the dark.

Talk about it

1. Why do you think the builders of a brand-new clock in 1859 chose two-thousand-year-old Roman numerals for its face?
2. Where is the one-before trick on this dial, and what would that hour look like written the long way?
3. If you built a great clock for your town, what numbers would you put on it, and why?

ACTIVITY

The numeral scavenger hunt and a paper clock

Roman numerals are hiding all over your house. Today you hunt them down, log every capture, and then build a clock face of your own, joining a four-hundred-year-old argument between clockmakers as you do.

You will need

- Your Latin notebook and a pencil, for the hunt log
- A paper plate or a big paper circle
- Crayons or markers, and a ruler
- Optional: a brad (paper fastener) and two card-paper hands
- 10 index cards for the counting words

Steps

1. Hunt, 15 minutes: search clock faces, book chapter pages, tables of contents, board games, movie and video cases, cornerstones if you walk past any, and the copyright pages of old books (the year often hides there in numerals). Log every find: where it was, the numeral, and what number it means.
2. Read your whole log aloud: 'Chapter IV, four! Super Bowl X, ten!'
3. Now the clock: mark the circle's top, bottom and sides first (XII, VI, III, IX), then fill in the rest of the hours in Roman numerals.
4. Decide like a clockmaker: will your four o'clock be IV, like the Great Clock of Westminster, or IIII, like most old clocks? Both are correct; the choice is yours, and now you know the argument.
5. Add hands with the brad, or draw them pointing at your favorite hour: the cena hour, naturally.
6. Make the ten counting-word flashcards (unus through decem) and add them to the deck.
7. Quiz finish: a parent points at any numeral on your clock; you answer with the Latin counting word. Points at VII, you say septem!

Tips

- On a clock, start with the anchors (XII, III, VI, IX) and the rest fall into place evenly.

- If a numeral in the wild is big, like MCMXCVIII on a cornerstone, log it anyway and ask a parent to help crack it; the I, V, X tricks have big cousins (L, C, D, M).
- Chant unus to decem while you draw; hands and voice together make the memory.

Check your work

- ☐ My hunt log has at least five real-world finds, each read correctly.
- ☐ My clock face has all twelve hours in correct Roman numerals, and I chose IV or IIII on purpose.
- ☐ I can count unus to decem from memory and answer finger-flashes in Latin.
- ☐ My ten counting cards are in the deck, and I ran the whole deck.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. Write the counting words one to ten with their numerals beside them, dated: unus I, duo II, tres III, quattuor IV, quinque V, sex VI, septem VII, octo VIII, novem IX, decem X.
2. Copy the one-before trick in your own words, with IV and IX as examples.
3. Log your scavenger hunt finds: where, the numeral, the number.
4. Write the derivative seeds: unus gives unicorn, duo gives duet, tres gives triple, octo gives octave, decem gives decimal.

From history. Rome counted bigger than X, of course: L is 50, C is 100 (from centum, hundred, as in century), D is 500 and M is 1,000 (from mille, thousand, as in mile, a thousand Roman soldier-paces). That is how movie credits write years: MCMXCVIII takes a moment, but it is only 1998 in a toga.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Build the numeral for 8, then for 9, and explain why they look so different.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Eight is five and three: V plus III.
2. So 8 is VIII, all adding.
3. Nine uses the one-before trick: one before ten, IX.

Answer: 8 is VIII (5+3 added on); 9 is IX (one taken away from ten). Rome adds when it can and subtracts when it is quicker.

Example 2. A book's table of contents says Chapter VII. Which chapter is it, and what is the Latin counting word?

▼ **Show solution**

1. VII is V plus II.
2. Five and two make seven.
3. Seven in Latin is septem.

Answer: Chapter seven: septem. (And September is keeping that word warm until next lesson.)

Example 3. Why does a unicorn prove you already knew some Latin counting?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Take the word apart: uni- and -corn.
2. Uni- is unus, one; cornu is Latin for horn (cousin of corona's family of head-words).
3. One horn: unicorn.

Answer: Unicorn is unus wearing English clothes: the one-horned creature. You have been saying 'one' in Latin since before you could read.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** Count from unus to quinque out loud.

▼ **Show answer**

Unus, duo, tres, quattuor, quinque: one, two, three, four, five.

2. **Easy** What number is X, and what is its Latin counting word?

▼ **Show answer**

Ten: decem.

3. **Easy** Read these numerals: III, VI, VIII.

▼ **Show answer**

Three, six, eight.

4. **Medium** Build the numerals for 4 and 9, and name the trick they both use.

▼ **Show answer**

IV and IX: the one-before trick, where a smaller numeral in front takes itself away from the bigger one.

5. **Medium** Give the Latin counting word: 7, 2, 10, 5.

▼ **Show answer**

Septem, duo, decem, quinque.

6. **Medium** Which Latin number hides in each: duet, triple, octave?

▼ **Show answer**

Duo in duet (two singers), tres in triple (three of something), octo in octave (eight notes up the scale).

7. **Hard** Why are Roman numerals made of straight lines, and where did that come in handy?

▼ **Show answer**

They were made to be carved: straight strokes are easy to cut with a chisel into stone. That is why cornerstones, monuments and grand clock faces still wear them.

8. **Challenge** A grandfather clock says IIII where you expected IV. Is the clock wrong? What would the Great Clock of Westminster say?

▼ **Show answer**

Not wrong: many clockmakers have always used IIII on clock faces, partly for its handsome balance with VIII across the dial. Westminster's Great Clock uses IV. Both are correct, and clockmakers still argue about it.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Writing IIII for four in schoolwork. On paper, use the one-before trick: IV. (Clock faces have their own old customs.)
- Reading VI and IV as the same. Order matters: V-then-I adds (six), I-then-V subtracts (four).
- Saying quinque as KWIN-kyoo. It is KWEEN-kweh, both syllables with the kw sound.
- Counting in Latin only forward. Chant backward from decem too, or the words only work in one direction, like a zipper that only closes.

Make it a game • Clock Face Count. Draw a clock face on paper plates or paper using Roman numerals I to XII. Count from unus to decem pointing at each number as fast as you can, then backward if you can. The parent calls a numeral like IX or IV and you say it in Latin. Try to beat your own time on a second round.

Scripture. “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” (Psalm 90:12, KJV)

Moses' prayer asks God to teach us to count what matters most: our own days. Numbers, Roman or English, are a gift for more than clocks and chapters; counting well is the beginning of living wisely.

UNIT 4 • COUNTING LIKE A ROMAN • LESSON 4.2 OF 10 • 3 SESSIONS OF 20–30 MINUTES

4.2 THE MONTHS WEAR LATIN

OBJECTIVES

- Tell the month stories: Janus's January, Mars's March, Caesar's July and Augustus's August.

- Explain the secret of September through December: Latin for seventh through tenth, from when the year began in March.
- Learn annus (year) and hear it inside annual and anniversary, with hora reviewed.
- Read the Latin month names aloud and make the family birthday calendar.

Warm-up. Count unus to decem, forward and back. Now say the months from September to December and listen closely: Septem-ber. Octo-ber. Novem-ber. Decem-ber. Seven, eight, nine, ten, but September is our ninth month and October our tenth! Something slipped, long ago. Today you find out what.

WATCH

How the months got their names (and what we used to call them)

RobWords · 18:22

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9iOt48bTw4>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the story paragraph, watched together as a family. The first half covers the main story, all twelve months; stop whenever you like.

Note: Important for parents: this channel is made for adults, and at 18 minutes it is the longest video in the course. Watch it together, enjoy the first half, and stop freely, or simply use the short backup video below instead. It was previewed and is clean; it is just long and grown-up in pace.

BACKUP VIDEO

How the months got their names

ShūBäck · 2:18

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZA6l4if8JgI>

The two-minute version of the same story. If the main video is too long today, this one covers the heart of it: the gods, the Caesars and the shifted numbers.

KEY TERMS

Janus

The Roman doorkeeper god with two faces, one looking back and one looking forward. January, the year's doorway, wears his name. (A story the Romans told, not the truth about God.)

calendar

The chart of the year's months and days. Ours is Julius Caesar's calendar of 46 B.C., lightly repaired since. The word comes from the Kalends, the Roman name for the first day of each month.

annus

Year. English keeps it in annual, once a year, and anniversary, the day that comes back around each year.

leftover numbers

September, October, November, December: Latin for seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, left over from when the Roman year began in March.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

Iānuārius

yah-nu-AH-ree-us

noun

January, the doorway month

ENGLISH January

Februārius

feh-bru-AH-ree-us

noun

February

ENGLISH February

Mārtius

MAHR-tee-us

noun

March, Mars's month

ENGLISH March

Aprīlis

ah-PREE-lees

noun

April

ENGLISH April

Māius

MAH-ee-us

noun

May

ENGLISH May

Iūnius

YOO-nee-us

noun

June

ENGLISH June

Iūlius

YOO-lee-us

noun

July, Julius Caesar's month

ENGLISH July

Augustus

ow-GUS-tus

noun

August, Augustus's month

ENGLISH August

September

sep-TEM-ber

noun

September, once the seventh month

ENGLISH September

Octōber

ok-TOH-ber

noun

October, once the eighth month

ENGLISH October

November

no-WEM-ber

noun

November, once the ninth month

ENGLISH November

December

deh-KEM-ber

noun

December, once the tenth month

ENGLISH December

CORE IDEAS

The story. The Romans pictured the year as a house, and its first month as the doorway. Their doorkeeper god was Janus, drawn with two faces, one looking back, one looking ahead, and the doorway month of January wears his name: the month that looks back at the old year and forward to the new. (Janus was a story the Romans told, not anyone real; but the picture of standing in a doorway between years is so good that the name has lasted two thousand years.) March belongs to Mars, the first month of the old Roman year, when armies marched out after winter. May and June carry the names of Maia and Juno, more Roman stories. Then come two real men: July is Julius Caesar, who fixed the broken calendar in 46 B.C., and August is Augustus, Rome's first emperor.

The great secret. Now the leftover months. In the oldest Roman calendar the year began in March, so count from March on your fingers: March one, April two, May three, June four, then the fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth months. The Romans named the last four of those by their numbers, your numbers now: septem, octo, novem, decem. September, October, November, December: seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth. When the year's start later moved to January, every one of those months slid two places, but nobody renamed them. So October, the 'eighth,' sits tenth in our

year, wearing a name two sizes out of date, and now you are one of the people who knows why.

How Latin works: the year's words. One new flashcard word: *annus* (AHN-noos), year. English keeps it in annual, once a year, and anniversary, the day that returns every year. Your friend *hora*, hour, comes back for review: hours fill days, days fill the annus. And for fun, read the Latin month names aloud, no memorizing, just tasting: Ianuarius, Februarius, Martius, Aprilis, Maius, Iunius, Iulius, Augustus, September, October, November, December. Notice the last four are barely Latin class at all; you could read them the day you were born.

Say it out loud. Chant the four leftover months with their numbers: septem, seven, September! octo, eight, October! novem, nine, November! decem, ten, December! Then say annus, and clap the English words built on it: AN-nu-al! an-ni-VER-sa-ry! Finish with each family member's birthday month said in its Latin form: a birthday in Iulius sounds twice as grand.

Try it. This week you make the family birthday calendar: every family member's birthday month, its Latin name, and its story, Janus at the door, Mars on the march, Caesar's own month, or a leftover number caught red-handed. Birthdays in your house are about to get Latin stories attached, permanently.

PICTURE STUDY



January, from the Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry, The Limbourg brothers, 1412–1416 · Illumination on vellum · Musée Condé, Chantilly, France
Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain

This is the January page of one of the most famous books in the world: a prayer book made for a French duke between 1412 and 1416, with a painting for each month's calendar page. January, the doorway month you have just learned about, gets the grandest scene of all: the duke's great New Year feast, when gifts were given and the year began with a feast. The painters were three brothers, the Limbourgs, and they packed the little page with so much gold and detail that people have been staring at it for six hundred years.

Look closely

- Find the duke: he sits at the right of the table in a robe of brilliant blue, the most expensive color a painter could buy.
- Behind his head glows a round woven fire screen, shielding him from the fireplace at his back; it circles his head almost like a halo, which is exactly the trick the painters intended.
- Look on the table itself: a little dog stands right among the golden dishes. The duke loved his small dogs enough to let them dine on the tablecloth.
- Look at the wall behind everyone: that is not a window but a huge tapestry, a woven picture of knights riding to battle, hung to keep the hall warm and splendid at once.

Talk about it

1. Why is a feast a fitting picture for January, the doorway month that looks back and forward at once?
2. What can you tell about the duke from what the painters put around him: the blue robe, the fire screen, the dog on the table?
3. This painting lives in a prayer book, with a calendar of holy days. Why might a book of prayers begin each month with a picture of ordinary life in that month?

ACTIVITY

The family birthday calendar

Every month has a Latin story, and every person in your family has a month. Today you join them: a birthday calendar where each family birthday comes with its month's Latin name and its secret history, told by you.

You will need

- A sheet of paper or light poster board, ruled into twelve boxes
- Pencil, ruler, crayons or markers
- 1 index card for the new word (annus)
- The family's birthday list (ask a parent for the full set)

Steps

1. Rule your page into twelve boxes, three rows of four, and title the whole page ANNUS, the year.
2. Letter each box with the English month and, underneath it, the Latin name: January / Ianuarius, February / Februarius, and so on through December.
3. In each birthday month, write the family member's name and day, with a little crown, a corona, drawn over it.
4. Under each birthday month, add its one-line story: 'Janus the doorkeeper: looks back and forward' for January; 'Mars's month: the old year began here' for March; 'Julius Caesar's own month' for July; 'Augustus's month' for August; and for September through December, the honest confession: 'Latin for seventh, really our ninth!' and so on.
5. Present the calendar at dinner: announce each family birthday with its Latin month and its story. A birthday in October must be announced as: the month that says eighth and sits tenth.
6. Make the annus flashcard and add it to the deck, then run the deck.
7. Hang the calendar where the family plans its year.

Tips

- The leftover months are the easy ones: you already own septem, octo, novem and decem from last lesson.

- Letter the Latin month names big; they are cousins of English and the family will enjoy sounding them out.
- No birthday in a month? Give the box its story anyway; every month earned its name.

Check your work

- ☐ All twelve months appear with their Latin names spelled correctly.
- ☐ Every family birthday is marked, crowned and storied.
- ☐ I presented the calendar aloud and told at least four month stories from memory.
- ☐ The annus card is in my deck, and the calendar is hanging up.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. Write annus with its meaning and its English children: annual, anniversary. Add hora, hour, for review beside it.
2. Copy the four leftover months with their numbers: September seventh, October eighth, November ninth, December tenth, and write the secret in one sentence: the old year began in March.
3. Draw Janus's doorway: an open door with one face looking back at the old year and one looking forward to the new, and write Ianuarius above it.
4. Copy the Latin month names in a column, and star your own birthday month.

From history. Caesar's calendar of 46 B.C. was a genuine repair job: the old Roman calendar had drifted so badly that harvest festivals were landing in spring. To reset it, Caesar made that one year 445 days long, the longest year in history, which Romans called 'the year of confusion.' The fix held: his calendar, lightly adjusted in 1582, is the one on your kitchen wall.

Example 1. October means 'eighth,' but it is our tenth month. Explain the slip in two sentences.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Remember where the old Roman year began: March.
2. Count from March: October lands eighth.
3. The year's start later moved to January, shifting every numbered month two places without renaming it.

Answer: In the old Roman calendar the year began in March, and counting from March, October really was the eighth month. When the year's start moved to January, October slid to tenth place but kept its old name.

Example 2. Which months are named for real men, and what did each man do?

▼ **Show solution**

1. July: Iulius, for Julius Caesar.
2. He repaired the broken Roman calendar in 46 B.C., the calendar we still use, lightly fixed.
3. August: Augustus, Rome's first emperor, honored with the next month.

Answer: July for Julius Caesar, who gave the world its working calendar in 46 B.C., and August for Augustus, Rome's first emperor.

Example 3. Your church holds its annual picnic. Using the Latin inside the word, how often is that, exactly?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Find the root: annus, year.
2. Annual means belonging to the year.
3. So an annual picnic comes once each annus.

Answer: Once a year: annual is annus in English clothes, and an anniversary is the same year-word coming back around.

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** What does annus mean, and what English word means 'once a year'?

▼ **Show answer**

Year; annual.

2. **Easy** Which Roman story-figure gives January its name, and what was he supposed to watch over?

▼ **Show answer**

Janus, the two-faced doorkeeper of the Romans' stories, who watched doorways and beginnings; January is the year's doorway.

3. **Easy** Which number hides in September: septem or decem?

▼ **Show answer**

Septem, seven; September was the seventh month of the old March-first year.

4. **Medium** Match the month to its story: March, July, August — Rome's first emperor; the war-god's marching month; the calendar-fixer.

▼ **Show answer**

March is the war-god Mars's marching month; July is Julius Caesar the calendar-fixer; August is Augustus, Rome's first emperor.

5. **Medium** Give the number hiding in each: October, November, December.

▼ **Show answer**

Octo (eight), novem (nine), decem (ten): eighth, ninth and tenth of the old year, tenth, eleventh and twelfth of ours.

6. **Medium** Read these Latin month names aloud and match them to English: Ianuarius, Martius, Iulius.

▼ **Show answer**

Yah-noo-AH-ree-oos is January, MAR-tee-oos is March, YOO-lee-oos is July.

7. **Hard** Whose calendar do we actually use today, and when was it made? What happened to it later?

▼ **Show answer**

Julius Caesar's calendar of 46 B.C. It ran for centuries and was lightly repaired in 1582, but it is still recognizably Caesar's year on every wall.

8. **Challenge** If the Romans had renamed the leftover months when the year's start moved to January, what number-name would December deserve, and what Latin would you build it from?

▼ **Show answer**

December sits twelfth now. Latin for twelve is duodecim, two-plus-ten, so the honest name would be something like Duodecember. (And now you see why nobody bothered: the old names were too comfortable to change.)

COMMON MISTAKES

- Thinking September through December are mysterious. They are just numbers, your numbers: septem, octo, novem, decem with -ber on the end.
- Counting the old year from January. The secret only works counting from March: March one, April two, and October lands eighth.
- Treating Janus as real. He is a story the Romans told; the month name is history, like a planet's name, and the year truly belongs to the God who made the lights for seasons, days and years.
- Saying annus with one n sound. Both n's are sounded: AHN-noos, like a little drumbeat in the middle.

Make it a game · Month Mix-Up. Write the twelve months on slips of paper and hide the names of the story months, like January and August, among them. The parent draws one and asks 'Who gave you your name?' You answer with Janus, Mars, Julius Caesar or Augustus. For the last four months, count out their Latin numbers. Score a bean per right answer.

Scripture. “And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years” (Genesis 1:14, KJV)

Months, seasons and the annus itself run on the lights God hung on the fourth day. Caesar only repaired the bookkeeping; the clock in the sky was wound at creation.

UNIT 5

LATIN ALL AROUND YOU

You now own more than forty Latin words, and here is the payoff: English is full of Latin hiding in plain sight, and you can find it. When William Penn was given a great wooded colony in America, it was named Pennsylvania: Penn plus silva, Penn's forest land. Your word silva is hiding inside the name of an American state! In this unit you become a word detective. The method is simple: find the root, know the meaning. Aqua gives aquarium, terra gives terrarium, stella gives stellar, luna gives lunar, corona gives coronation, via gives viaduct, familia gives family. You will fill a detective page with ten honest catches, and learn to unmask impostors too: lunch has nothing to do with luna.

Then the course ends with a song. For more than a thousand years, most singing in church in the West was in Latin, and whole choirs sang from one giant handwritten page; you will study a six-hundred-year-old leaf from one of those great songbooks. Your song is the old round *Dona nobis pacem*, grant us peace: three Latin words a third grader can own forever. You will learn it word by word, sing it as a round, and then host the Family Latin Evening, where you teach the greetings, set the table with Latin place cards, show your cards and pages and posters, and lead the family in the round. The quarter ends with your house full of Latin and singing.

PREREQUISITES

- Knows the course word list so far by flashcard: home, table, sky, animals and counting words
- Can say the five vowel sounds and four letter rules without help
- Keeps the daily greetings going: salve, vale, gratias

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can explain the detective method: find the Latin root, know the English word's meaning.
- ☐ I caught at least ten honest derivatives and wrote them under their roots.
- ☐ I can unmask an impostor: a word that only looks like it has a Latin root (lunch is not from luna).
- ☐ I can tell what Pennsylvania means and which Latin word hides in it.
- ☐ I can say and sing dona nobis pacem and tell what each word means.
- ☐ I hosted the Family Latin Evening and led the round.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- ***Minimus: Starting out in Latin***, by Barbara Bell: The mouse-at-the-Roman-fort comic makes a perfect read-aloud finale for the course: the student will now recognize words on nearly every page.
- **Latin Launchpad**: Free. Our companion practice site; its grade 3 word packs cover most of this course's words, so the matching games make a fine end-of-course review before the Family Latin Evening.
- ***Song School Latin 1* (Classical Academic Press)**: The songs-and-chants program for this age; its songs give the Family Latin Evening extra music, and the backup video this week is a sample from its second book.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch has no ties to these authors, publishers or companies.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

5.1 Word Detectives

3 sessions of 20–30 minutes

UNIT 5 REVIEW

Ask each question out loud and let the student answer out loud; a parent may write the answers down. The review is worth 30 points. Keep it cheerful: it is a recital, not an exam, and it is the course's last one.

1. (5 pts)

Explain the word-detective method, and work it on aquarium.

2. (5 pts)

What does Pennsylvania mean, and which Latin word is inside it?

3. (5 pts)

Give one honest derivative each for terra, corona and via, and unmask one impostor.

4. (5 pts)

Say dona nobis pacem, give its meaning word by word, and pronounce pacem the classical way.

5. (5 pts)

How did choirs sing in church for most of a thousand years, and what was an antiphonary?

6. (5 pts)

The grand finale: count unus to decem, greet me, thank me, and say farewell, all in Latin.

ANSWER KEY

1. Find the root, know the meaning: aquarium hides aqua, water, so it is a water-house for fish.
2. Penn's forest land; silva, forest.
3. Examples: terrarium (or territory), coronation, viaduct; the impostor is lunch, which looks like luna but has nothing to do with the moon.
4. Dona, grant; nobis, to us; pacem (PAH-kem), peace: grant us peace.
5. They sang in Latin, often from one shared giant handwritten songbook, the antiphonary, with square notes on four red lines, big enough for the whole choir to read at once.
6. Unus, duo, tres, quattuor, quinque, sex, septem, octo, novem, decem; salve (or salvete); gratias; vale.

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE FAMILY LATIN EVENING

Host the course's closing feast. The student is the magister and plans the whole evening: handwritten invitations with SALVETE on the front; a table set with the Latin place cards (mensa, cena, aqua, rosa) and a simple snack; a short greetings lesson where the family practices salve, salvete, vale and gratias until everyone has them; a show-and-tell tour of the quarter's work, the night-sky page, the creature chart, the birthday calendar, the family timeline and the word-detective page, with the student explaining each in a sentence or two; a flashcard lightning round where family members draw cards from the deck and the student answers (or coaches them to answer); and, to finish, Dona nobis pacem, taught by the student and sung as a round, in two parts at least, three if the voices allow. End at the door the Roman way: vale to every guest. A parent takes photographs; the student writes one last notebook page the next day: what I taught my family, and my favorite Latin word of the whole quarter.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
The plan carried out	Invitations, set table, greetings lesson, show-and-tell, lightning round and song all happened, led by the student.
The teaching	The family actually learned: by evening's end every member could say salve, vale and gratias at the right moments.
The Latin	The student's own Latin was classical and confident all evening: hard c, v like w, every label and card read correctly.
The song	The student led Dona nobis pacem, taught the words' meanings, and held his or her part in the round.

UNIT 5 • LATIN ALL AROUND YOU • LESSON 5.1 OF 10 • 3 SESSIONS OF 20–30 MINUTES

5.1 WORD DETECTIVES

OBJECTIVES

- Explain what a root and a derivative are, in a third grader's own words.
- Use the detective method: find the root, know the meaning.
- Catch at least ten honest derivatives from the course's roots.
- Test and unmask impostors: look-alike words that do not keep the root's meaning.

Warm-up. Run the deck at full speed, then solve this case: a whole American state is wearing one of your flashcards. Its name means 'Penn's forest land.' Which state, and which Latin word? (Hint: say *silva*, then say Pennsylvania slowly.) Today you become a word detective, and English becomes your case file.

WATCH

Latin and Greek Root Words - Language Skills for Kids!

Miacademy & MiaPrep Learning Channel · 4:10

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jWyX8vl6kMs>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the How Latin works paragraph. Watch for the method: a long word is a machine made of parts, and the root is the part that carries the meaning.

Note: Made for elementary students. Some roots in the video are Greek cousins rather than Latin; a detective is glad to know both families exist.

BACKUP VIDEO

Song School Latin 2, Derivative Example

Classical Academic Press · 1:18

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HCLB25qLRc>

A one-minute taste of how the songs-and-chants program teaches derivatives; good as a Session 3 warm-up before the detective page.

KEY TERMS

root

The Latin word hiding inside a longer English word, carrying the main meaning: *aqua* inside *aquarium*.

impostor

A word that only looks like it contains a Latin root: *lunch* looks a little like *luna*, but it has nothing to do with the moon.

derivative

An English word built from a Latin root, the way *aquarium* is built from *aqua*, water.

Pennsylvania

Penn's forest land: William Penn's name plus *silva*, forest. An American state with a Latin word in its pocket.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

līber

LEE-ber

noun

a book

ENGLISH library

manus

MAH-nus

noun

a hand

ENGLISH manual

pēs

PAYS

noun

a foot

ENGLISH pedal

caput

KAH-put

noun

the head

ENGLISH capital

dēns

DAYNS

noun

a tooth

ENGLISH dentist

oculus

O-ku-lus

noun

an eye

ENGLISH oculist

cor

KOR

noun

the heart

ENGLISH cordial

vōx

WOHKS

noun

a voice

ENGLISH vocal

nāvis

NAH-wees

noun

a ship

ENGLISH navy

flūmen

FLOO-men

noun

a river

ENGLISH flume

arbor

AHR-bor

noun

a tree

ENGLISH arbor

CORE IDEAS

The story. In 1681, the king of England owed a debt to the family of William Penn, and he paid it with land in America: a huge green country of woods and rivers. The name given to the colony honored Penn and told the plain truth about the place: Pennsylvania, Penn plus silva, Penn's forest land. Open any map of the United States and there it is, a Latin word you learned under the night sky, hiding inside the name of a state. And in our picture study you will see one of the first maps of that forest land, drawn for Penn himself in the 1680s.

English is full of Latin. Pennsylvania is not a rare case; it is how English works. Long words in English are very often Latin words wearing English clothes. You have been collecting the proof all quarter: aquarium from aqua, family from familia, annual from annus. More than half of the longer words in English have Latin inside them, which means the forty-some words in your deck are not just words: they are keys, and each one opens a whole ring of English doors.

How Latin works: the detective method. Here is the whole method, two steps. Step one: find the root, the Latin word hiding inside. Step two: let the root tell you the meaning. Try it: terrarium. Root: terra, earth. Meaning: a little glass place of earth. Stellar? Root: stella: starry, star-quality. Lunar? Luna: belonging to the moon. Coronation? Corona: the crowning of a king or queen. Viaduct? Via: a road carried over a valley. The detective reads long words the way you read your flashcards: root first.

Beware impostors. A good detective tests the evidence, because some words only look Latin. Is lunch from luna? Say the meanings: lunch is a midday meal; luna is the moon. No family resemblance, case dismissed: impostor. Is carpet from some Latin pet? No. But is familiar from familia? Yes: something familiar is known to you like your own household. The test is always meaning, not just matching letters.

Try it. This week you fill the word-detective page: ten honest catches, each with its root circled and its Latin meaning noted, and at least one impostor unmasked and stamped FALSUM, false. Books, food labels, maps and the week's conversations are all fair hunting grounds.

PICTURE STUDY



A Map of the Province of Pennsylvania, Thomas Holme, 1687 · Engraved map (19th-century facsimile) · Library of Congress, Washington
Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain

This is Penn's forest land on paper: the first great map of Pennsylvania, made by Penn's own surveyor, Thomas Holme, in the 1680s (ours is a careful later copy of it). Every little rectangle is a family's piece of the woods, with the buyer's name lettered inside. The colony was so new that the map is mostly empty land and river, *silva* waiting for farms, and its name, right there in the grand lettering, carries your Latin word for forest to this day.

Look closely

- Find the province's name in the big ornate lettering, and find the *silva* hiding in it: Penn's forest land.
- Follow a river with your finger. Rivers were the roads of the colony; the first farms line up along them like beads on a string.
- Look at the hundreds of little rectangles, each with a name: every box was a family about to start a farm in the woods.
- Find an empty stretch with no names at all: that is the forest itself, the *silva*, still waiting.

Talk about it

1. Why was 'Penn's forest land' an honest name for this colony? What does the map itself tell you?

2. Each named rectangle was a family's fresh start. What would it feel like to find your own family's name on a map like this?
3. The mapmaker lettered the name of the province in grand capitals. If you named a new land tomorrow, what Latin word would you put in its name?

ACTIVITY

The word-detective page

Open a case file in your Latin notebook: one full page, ten honest catches, every root circled, and at least one impostor unmasked. English words have been hiding Latin from you your whole life; today the hiding ends.

You will need

- Your Latin notebook and a pencil
- A red or bright crayon for circling roots and stamping impostors
- Books, food labels, a map or atlas, and the family's talk, as hunting grounds
- Your flashcard deck, as the detective's handbook

Steps

1. Title the page VERBA DETECTA, words detected, and date it.
2. Rule a line down the middle: catches on the left, the evidence on the right.
3. Hunt for 15 minutes with your deck beside you: scan book pages, labels and maps for English words that hide your roots (aquarium, terrace, stellar, lunar, coronation, viaduct, family, annual, portable...). A parent may call out candidate words for you to test.
4. For each catch: write the English word, circle the Latin root inside it, and write the root's meaning as the evidence. Say each one aloud: 'Aquarium, from aqua, water: a water-house for fish.'
5. Now the impostor test: write lunch, and beside it luna with its meaning. Does a midday meal have anything to do with the moon? Stamp it FALSUM in red. Unmask one more look-alike if you can find one.
6. Read the full case file aloud to the family: ten catches, one impostor, case closed.
7. Keep the page ready: it stars in the Family Latin Evening next week.

Tips

- Maps are rich hunting grounds: Pennsylvania on every U.S. map, and watch for aqua, villa and terra hiding in town names.

- A real catch keeps the root's meaning. If you cannot say how the meanings connect, mark it 'suspect' and ask a parent to help investigate.
- Science words and church words are nearly all Latin or its Greek cousins; a nature book or a hymnal is a treasure chest.

Check your work

- ☐ My page has ten honest catches, each with its root circled and its meaning written.
- ☐ I unmasked at least one impostor and stamped it FALSUM.
- ☐ I read the whole case file aloud with classical pronunciation of every root.
- ☐ I can explain the detective method in one sentence: find the root, know the meaning.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. The word-detective page itself lives in the notebook this week: VERBA DETECTA, dated, ten catches with circled roots.
2. Write the Pennsylvania story in two sentences: whose name, which Latin word, and what the whole name means.
3. Copy the method in your own words: find the root, know the meaning; test the meaning, not just the letters.
4. List your three favorite catches of the week and draw a small picture for the best one.

From history. William Penn, a Quaker, wanted to call the colony simply Sylvania, forest land; it was the king who insisted on adding Penn in honor of William's father, Admiral Penn. So the state's name is half a family honor and half a Latin landscape, and young William was reportedly embarrassed by the family half.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. A detective meets the word *terrarium*. Work the method.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Step one, find the root: terra, earth, sits at the front.
 2. Step two, know the meaning: terra means earth or land.
 3. The -arium ending you met in aquarium means a place for.
-

Answer: A terrarium is a little glass place of earth, a garden in a jar. Root found, case closed.

Example 2. Is *coronation* an honest derivative of corona, or an impostor?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Find the look-alike root: corona, crown.
 2. Test the meanings: a coronation is the crowning of a king or queen.
 3. The meanings match: crowns both ways.
-

Answer: Honest. Coronation keeps corona's meaning perfectly: it is the crown made into a ceremony.

Example 3. Is *lunch* from luna? Run the impostor test.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Spot the resemblance: lun- looks like luna.
 2. Test the meanings: lunch is a midday meal; luna is the moon.
 3. Midday is when the moon is usually not even visible; the meanings refuse to connect.
-

Answer: Impostor. Lunch has nothing to do with the moon; stamp it FALSUM. (Lunar, on the other hand, is honest through and through.)

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** What root hides in *aquarium*, and what does it mean?

▼ **Show answer**

Aqua, water: an aquarium is a water-house for fish.

2. **Easy** Pennsylvania means what, and which of your words is inside it?

▼ **Show answer**

Penn's forest land; silva, forest.

3. **Easy** Match the root to its derivative: stella, luna, via — viaduct, stellar, lunar.

▼ **Show answer**

Stella gives stellar, luna gives lunar, via gives viaduct.

4. **Medium** Work the method on *coronation*: root, meaning, connection.

▼ **Show answer**

Root corona, crown; a coronation is the crowning of a king or queen; the crown meaning carries straight through.

5. **Medium** Which of these is the impostor, and why: familiar, lunch, annual?

▼ **Show answer**

Lunch. Familiar honestly comes from familia (known like your own household) and annual from annus (once a year), but lunch has no connection to luna's meaning.

6. **Medium** A sign says VIADUCT AHEAD. Using the root, what should you expect the road to do?

▼ **Show answer**

Via means road: a viaduct carries the road up over a valley or over other roads, a road on legs.

7. **Hard** Why is 'test the meaning, not the letters' the detective's golden rule? Use carpet or lunch as your example.

▼ **Show answer**

Letters can match by accident: carpet contains 'pet' and lunch looks like luna, but the meanings do not connect. A true derivative keeps the root's meaning, so the meaning is the fingerprint that cannot be faked.

8. **Challenge** Count your keys: pick any three roots from your deck and give one honest English derivative for each, without repeating any from this lesson's examples.

▼ **Show answer**

Answers vary. Examples: porta gives portal or porter; terra gives territory; annus gives anniversary; mater gives maternal; unus gives unicycle or union.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Matching letters instead of meanings. Lunch is not from luna and carpet is not from any pet; the meaning is the evidence that counts.
- Catching only this lesson's examples. The deck holds forty-some roots; the best detectives catch derivatives nobody listed for them.
- Forgetting to circle the root. The circle is the arrest: it shows exactly which Latin word was caught hiding.
- Thinking small words have no Latin. Even exit and via are pure Latin; short words can be Romans too.

Make it a game • Root Detective. Put on a detective voice. The parent names an English word from the unit, like aquarium or terrain, and you name the Latin root and its meaning. Then find one more word in the room with the same root. Beware of impostors: the parent hands you one fake word, like Pennsylvania, and you must say why it is not what it seems.

Scripture. “It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.” (Proverbs 25:2, KJV)

The detective's verse. God delights to tuck wonders away, in creation and even in words, and He honors those who search things out. A child circling the aqua in aquarium is doing, in a small way, royal work.

UNIT 5 • LATIN ALL AROUND YOU • LESSON 5.2 OF 10 • 3 SESSIONS OF 20–30 MINUTES

5.2 A SONG IN LATIN

OBJECTIVES

- Tell how the church in the West sang in Latin for more than a thousand years, with whole choirs reading from one giant page.

- Say and sing the three words dona nobis pacem, and tell what each word means.
- Sing Dona nobis pacem as a round with the family.
- Host the Family Latin Evening, the course's closing celebration.

Warm-up. Run the whole deck one last time, start to finish, and count the cards you own. Forty-some words! Now ask a grandparent or parent: what is the oldest song you know? Today you learn a song so old nobody remembers who wrote it, in the language you have been learning all quarter, and it is only three words long.

WATCH

Dona Nobis Pacem - Traditional Round / Canon | 3-Part Multitrack Sing-Along & Teaching Track

Julie Gaulke · 2:52

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fhJ6XrZ4jg>

WHEN TO WATCH

After the How Latin works paragraph. First listen through once, then sing along with part one until you own the tune; the video teaches all three parts of the round.

Note: A sing-along teaching track: one singer sings all three parts of the round together. Learn part one this week; the family can split into parts at the Latin Evening.

BACKUP VIDEO

Chorus Niagara Children's Choir - Dona Nobis Pacem arr. Hal Hopson

chorusniagaracc · 3:10

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKz_aBRhCIk

Hear a real children's choir sing it, beautifully. Good for Session 1 listening, so the student knows what the round sounds like when voices stack up.

KEY TERMS

round

A song where singers start the same tune at different times and the parts stack into harmony, like Row, Row, Row Your Boat. Dona nobis pacem is a famous round.

antiphony

A giant handwritten songbook, big enough for a whole choir to read from at once. Our picture study is one page of one.

dona nobis pacem

Grant us peace: dona, grant or give; nobis, to us; pacem, peace. Three Latin words, one prayer, sung for centuries.

chant

The old way of singing prayers and Scripture: one flowing melody, no instruments, written in square notes on four lines.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Classical sounds: c is always k, g is always hard, v is w, and ae says eye. Capitals show the stress. A macron marks a long vowel.

dō

DOH

verb

I give

ENGLISH donate

nōs

NOHS

pronoun

we; us

pāx

PAHKS

noun

peace

ENGLISH pacific

Deus

DEWS

noun

God

ENGLISH deity

sanctus

SAHNK-tus

adjective

holy

ENGLISH sanctuary

glōria

GLOH-ree-ah

noun

glory

ENGLISH glory

hymnus

HYMNUS

noun

a hymn

ENGLISH hymn

cantus

KAHN-tus

noun

a song

ENGLISH chant

laus

LOWS

noun

praise

ENGLISH laud

āmēn

AH-mayn

greeting

amen; so be it

ENGLISH amen

ecclēsia

ekk-LAY-see-ah

noun

a church, the assembly

ENGLISH ecclesiastical

CORE IDEAS

The story. For more than a thousand years, most singing in church in the West was in Latin. Monks sang the Psalms in Latin seven times a day; congregations heard the Scriptures sung in Latin; and because books were copied by hand and parchment was precious, a choir often shared one book, a giant one, set on a stand in the middle, with letters and notes big enough to read from across the room. In our picture study you will see one leaf of such a songbook, made around 1290: square black notes marching along red lines, with a great decorated initial, a page built to hold twenty singers' eyes at once.

Three words to own forever. Your song is a round called *Dona nobis pacem*, and nobody knows who wrote it; it has simply been handed from singer to singer for centuries. The words are a prayer: *dona* (DOH-nah), grant, give; *nobis* (NOH-bees), to us; *pacem* (PAH-kem), peace. Grant us peace. Watch the c in *pacem*: hard, like k, PAH-kem, by the first rule you ever learned. Three words, and a third grader can carry them for life.

How Latin works: a word you can hear in the ocean. *Pacem* is Latin's word for peace, and English keeps its family everywhere: *pacify* means to make peaceful, and the Pacific Ocean is the peaceful sea, named by sailors who found it calm after a stormy passage. So when you sing *pacem* you are singing a word that is also printed on every map of the world. One more wonder: in a round, the song itself makes a kind of peace, three groups singing different moments of the same tune, and instead of noise, it comes out harmony.

Say it out loud, then sing it. Speak the prayer slowly three times: *dona nobis pacem*, grant us peace. Then learn the tune from the video, phrase by phrase, and sing part one until it feels like breathing. When it is steady, try a two-part round with a parent: they start, you enter when they reach the second phrase. Stack a third part at the Latin Evening. The rule of rounds: sing your own line and smile while you hold it.

Try it. This week everything you made all quarter comes together: you plan and host the Family Latin Evening. You are the magister; the family is your class; and the evening ends with the round, sung by everyone, in Latin. Details in the activity, and the unit challenge is the evening itself.

PICTURE STUDY



Leaf from the Beaupré Antiphonary, Unknown Flemish scribes and illuminators, 1290 · Ink, paint and gold on parchment · Made for the abbey of Beaupré, Flanders; now in the Walters Art Museum, Baltimore
Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain

This page is more than seven hundred years old, and it is a page of music: a leaf from an antiphonary, the giant songbook a whole choir shared. The words are Latin, the square black notes sit on red lines, and the fancy painted letter marks where a chant begins. Picture it on a tall stand with singers gathered around, the way your family will gather around one song this week. Every mark was made by hand: the lines ruled in red, the notes placed one by one, the great initial painted and gilded, by people who believed a song to God deserved their best work.

Look closely

- Find the musical staves: four red lines, not the five black ones in a modern songbook. Chant notation grew up before our five-line staff was settled.
- Look at the notes: little black squares, some stacked like stair steps. Each square is a sung pitch, and a stack means the voice climbs.
- Find the great decorated initial and see how the painter filled and framed it. It is a signpost: a new chant starts here.
- Judge the size: this leaf is bigger than a poster board page of today. Why would a shared choir book need letters and notes this large?

Talk about it

1. Twenty singers shared one page like this. What would singing feel like, shoulder to shoulder around one great book?
2. The scribes ruled, lettered, noted and gilded every page by hand. What does that care tell you about how they regarded the songs?
3. Your three-word song is in the same language as this page. Why do you think some songs and prayers last for centuries while other words are forgotten in a week?

ACTIVITY

Learning the round and planning the Evening

Two jobs this week, and both are joys: learn *Dona nobis pacem* until you can lead it, and plan the Family Latin Evening where everything from the whole quarter, cards, labels, posters, pages and song, comes home.

You will need

- The teaching-track video and your singing voice
- 3 index cards for the song words (*dona, nobis, pacem*)
- Your quarter's work: flashcard deck, place cards, animal cards, night-sky page, creature chart, birthday calendar, detective page
- Paper for invitations and a simple snack for the evening

Steps

1. Learn the words first, spoken: *dona nobis pacem*, grant us peace. Make the three word cards and add them to the deck; the deck is now complete.
2. Learn the tune with the video, one phrase at a time, singing along until part one is solid. Aim for three confident sing-throughs in a row.
3. Try a two-part round with a parent or sibling: they start; you enter at the second phrase. Hold your line and smile.
4. Write and deliver invitations to the Family Latin Evening: date, time, and a Latin greeting on the front (*SALVETE!*). Every family member gets one.
5. Plan the program and write it out: greetings lesson (*salve, salvete, vale, gratias*), the Latin table with place cards and a snack, show-and-tell of your best work (night-sky page, creature chart, birthday calendar, detective page), a flashcard lightning round, and the song to finish.
6. Rehearse your teaching moments once: how you will teach the greetings, and how you will bring the family into the round.
7. Host the Evening, and end it the old way: *Dona nobis pacem*, then *vale* to each guest at the door.

Tips

- *Pacem* is PAH-kem. If the family drifts to PAH-chem (the church way they may know from choirs), smile: both are real traditions, and this course sings the

classical k.

- In a round, confidence beats volume: a steady quiet line holds better than a loud wobbly one.
- Keep the program short and merry: twenty minutes of Latin, then the snack. Always end wanting more.

Check your work

- ☐ I can say and translate all three words of the song.
- ☐ I can sing part one alone, straight through, three times without stumbling.
- ☐ I tried the round with at least one other singer.
- ☐ The invitations are delivered and the Evening's program is written out.

LATIN NOTEBOOK

1. Write the three song words with meanings, dated: dona, grant; nobis, to us; pacem, peace, and the whole prayer beneath: grant us peace.
2. Draw the giant songbook on its stand with singers around it, square notes and all.
3. Copy the program of your Family Latin Evening in your best hand; this page is the course's last make.
4. Write two or three sentences: the best thing I made this quarter, and the Latin word I like saying most, and why.

From history. Nobody knows who composed Dona nobis pacem; old songbooks have sometimes pinned it on famous names, but it is truly anonymous, polished smooth by centuries of singers. That makes it a fitting last lesson: like Latin itself, it belongs to no one because it was handed faithfully to everyone.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Take the song apart: which word is 'peace,' which is 'grant,' and which is 'to us'?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Dona is the asking word: grant, give.
 2. Nobis means to us, the ones asking.
 3. Pacem is peace, the thing asked for.
-

Answer: Dona, grant; nobis, to us; pacem, peace: grant us peace, a whole prayer in three words.

Example 2. Why is the Pacific Ocean a cousin of your song?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Find the root: pac-, the peace word, the same one in pacem.
 2. Pacific means peaceful.
 3. Sailors who crossed it after stormy seas named it the peaceful sea.
-

Answer: The Pacific is the 'peaceful' ocean, named with pacem's own root. Your song's last word is on every map of the world.

Example 3. Say *pacem* the classical way, and explain which rule you used.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Spot the c: in classical Latin, c is always hard, like k.
 2. Sound the vowels: a says ah, e says ay-ish short eh.
 3. Put it together with the stress up front.
-

Answer: PAH-kem, by the very first rule of the course: Latin c is always hard. (Choirs today often sing PAH-chem, the later church way; both are real, and we sing the classical.)

PRACTICE

1. **Easy** What does dona nobis pacem mean, word by word?

▼ **Show answer**

Dona, grant (give); nobis, to us; pacem, peace: grant us peace.

2. **Easy** What is a round?

▼ **Show answer**

A song where singers start the same tune at different times and the parts stack into harmony, like Row, Row, Row Your Boat.

3. **Easy** Say pacem the classical way.

▼ **Show answer**

PAH-kem: the c is hard, like k.

4. **Medium** For about how long was most church singing in the West in Latin, and why did choirs share one giant book?

▼ **Show answer**

For more than a thousand years. Books were copied by hand on costly parchment, so a choir shared one huge book with letters and notes big enough to read from across the room.

5. **Medium** Which English words carry pacem's root? Name two and connect the meanings.

▼ **Show answer**

Pacify, to make peaceful, and Pacific, the 'peaceful' ocean; both keep the peace meaning of pax/pacem.

6. **Medium** Who wrote Dona nobis pacem?

▼ **Show answer**

Nobody knows: it is a traditional round, handed from singer to singer for centuries. Some books have guessed at famous composers, but it truly belongs to everyone.

7. **Hard** In a round, everyone sings the same tune, yet it comes out as harmony instead of noise. What does each singer have to do for that to work, and what does that take besides a voice?

▼ **Show answer**

Each singer must hold his or her own line steadily, entering at the right time and not chasing the others. It takes listening and patience, which is why a round is such good practice for a family.

8. **Challenge** Your song asks for peace, and John 14:27 tells where real peace comes from. Put the two together in your own words.

▼ **Show answer**

Answers vary: the song is a prayer, and the One we ask is Jesus, who said 'my peace I give unto you.' Dona nobis pacem is three Latin words aimed at the only Giver who can fully answer them.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Singing the words before saying them. Speak dona nobis pacem until it is easy, then add the tune; words first, music second.
- Softening the c: PAH-chem is the later church pronunciation, lovely in its place, but this course sings classical PAH-kem.
- Racing the round. The singer who speeds up capsizes everyone; a round is held together by singers who keep time like little clocks.
- Treating the Evening as a test. It is a feast: the student shows what he or she loves, and the family's job is to enjoy it loudly.

Make it a game • Sing in a Round. Teach the song to a stuffed animal or sibling: dona nobis pacem. Say each word and its meaning, then sing it together. Next, split into two groups and sing it as a round, with the second group starting after the first finishes the first word. See if you can finish without a stumble. Try it again slowly.

Scripture. “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27, KJV)

Dona nobis pacem asks for peace, and here is the Lord's answer, given the night before the cross. When your family sings the round, you are asking Him for what He has already promised to give.