

Latin 101 1-7-2010

ante diem septimum Idus Ianuarias

Pronunciation

Latin pronunciation is fairly straightforward. Some basics:

- Every syllable is pronounced; there are no silent letters.
- Some consonants are pronounced differently from English. (The notes below explain the most important differences. We will focus on others as we come to them.)
- Vowels have "long" and "short" sounds, and **macrons** (the little lines over some vowels) alert you that the vowel is long.

Pronounce:

- mensa (*table*)
- fenestra (*window*)
- tabula (*tablet, blackboard*)

The letter C: in Latin, *c* is always pronounced hard, like a **k**, and never soft, like an **s**.

- lūcerna (*lamp*)
- tectum (*ceiling, roof*)

Consonants CH: *ch* is pronounced like a **k** with a little **-h** sound after it, and not like **ch** in chair.

- schola (*schoolroom*)
- charta (*paper*)

The Letter G: *g* is pronounced hard, as in **get**, and never soft (like a **j**).

- magistra (*teacher*)

The letter I: *i* at the beginning of a word, when it is followed by a vowel, is pronounced like **y**:

- ianua (*door*)
- iam (*now, already*)

The letter R: *r* is rolled.

- lūcerna (*lamp*)
- fenestra (*window*)
- mūrus (*wall*)

The Letter S: s is always pronounced like **s**, as in *safe*, never like **z**, as in *position*.

- sella (*chair*)

The Letter V: v is pronounced like **w**.

- vir (*man*)

Double consonants: double consonants are pronounced a little longer than single consonants.

- tabula (*tablet, blackboard*) vs.
- sella (*chair*)
- stilus (*writing instrument*) vs.
- puella (*girl*)

Short vs. long a: (short: like –a- in *India*; long: like –a- in *father*)

- mensa (*table*)
- in scholā (*in school*)

Short vs. long e: (short: like –e- in *bed*; long: like –ay in *hay*)

- fenestra (*window*)
- fēmina (*woman*)

Short vs. long i: (short: like –i- in *tin*; long: like –ee- in *feed*)

- in (*in*)
- īnsula (*island*)

Short vs. long o: (short: like –o- in *lost*; long: like –o- in *host*)

- schola (*school room*)
- puerōs (*boys*)

Short vs. long u: (short: like –u- in *put*; long: like –oo- in *food*)

- solum (*floor*)
- mūrus (*wall*)

- tabula (*tablet, blackboard*)

The diphthong* ae: like the –y in fly:

- mensae (*tables*)

The diphthong au: like the -ow in how

- audit (*s/he hears*)
- nauta (*sailor*)

The diphthong* ue: both vowels are sounded:

- puella (*girl*)

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Questions and Answers

Quid est?

Est stilus.

hic est __

What is IT?

IT is A pen.

Here is ... This is ...

Terms:

- **noun** is a person, place, thing or idea.
- **verb** is a word that shows action.
- **adjective** is a word that describes a noun.
- **dictionary form** means the form of the word when you look it up in a dictionary. It gives you everything you need to know all the forms a word takes when it is used in language.
- **declension** means a spelling group for a noun or adjective.

Dictionary form

Nouns: Nominative, Genitive, (gender)

- **nominative** means that the words is a subject of a sentence or a word that describes a subject
- **genitive** means that the word shows possession (of __ or __'s)
- **gender** is whether the word is grammatically masculine, feminine, or neuter

Nouns: First Declension (spelling group)

fēmina, -ae f	woman
puella, -ae f	girl
sella, -ae, f	chair, seat
mensa, -ae f	table
fenestra, -ae f	window
ianua, -ae f	door
charta, -ae f	paper
tabula, -ae f	tablet
lūcerna, -ae f	light, lamp
schola, -ae f	schoolroom
casa, -ae f	house

Nouns: Second Declension: Masculine

stil-us, ī m	stili	writing instrument
mūr-us, ī m		wall
liber, librī m		book
puer, puerī m		boy
(vir, virī, m)		man

Nouns: Second Declension: Neuter

solum, -ī n	floor
tectum, -ī n	roof, ceiling

Verbs

ex: amō, amāre, amāvī, amātum (amō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum)

- **amō** = first person singular, present tense (I love)
- **amāre** = infinitive (to love)
- **amāvī** = first person singular, perfect tense (I loved)
- **amātum** = perfect passive participle (having been loved)

ambulō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum	to walk
festinō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum	to hurry
labōrō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum	to work

Practice: Give the dictionary form for:

sella
mensa
ianua
fenestra
lūcerna
casa
fēmina
puella
tabula

vir
puer
liber

stilus
mūrus

solum
tectum