

## The Classical Latin Alphabet and Pronunciation

Letter	Sounds Like
A, a	(long) father, (short) drama
B, b	<b>bill</b>
C, c	<b>cat</b>
D, d	<b>do</b>
E, e	(long) they, (short) met
F, f	<b>fan</b>
G, g	<b>get</b>
H, h	<b>honey</b>
I, i	(long) machine, (short) sit, (as a consonant) yes
K, k	<b>keep</b>
L, l	<b>lion</b>
M, m	<b>mat</b>
N, n	<b>noon</b>
O, o	(long) home, (short) hot
P, p	<b>pear</b>
Q, q	<b>queen</b>
R, r	<b>real</b>
S, s	<b>snake</b>
T, t	<b>tear</b>
U, u	(long) super, (short) put, (as consonant) win
V, v	<b>win</b>
X, x	<b>axe</b>
Z, z	<b>adze</b>

Consonant Combinations	
ch	<b>back-hoe</b>
gn	<b>ignore</b>
ph	<b>tap-hammer</b>
sc	<b>sky</b>
th	<b>hot-head</b>

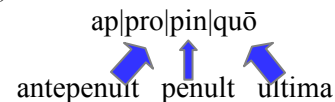
Diphthongs	
ae	<b>aisle</b>
au	<b>out</b>
ei	<b>reign</b>
eu	like: <b>feud</b>
oe	<b>boil</b>

-Latin is **phonetic**, so everything is pronounced.

-Long vowels are marked by **macron** appearing over the vowel: ā, ē, ī, ō, ū.

-Syllables are generally **broken up by vowels**, they tend to **begin with consonants**, and they **break up double consonant groups**, except for certain combinations (ng, qu, pr, tr, cr, chr, br, dr, gr, pl, cl, bl, or gl).

-The accent/stress always falls on the second to last syllable (**penult**) or the third to last syllable (**antepenult**).



-The penult is stressed if:

- its vowel is long or a diphthong
- its vowel is followed by x, or z, or any two consonants (except a combination of b, c, d, g, p, or t with either l or r, a “stop-liquid” combo)

-Try pronouncing these Latin words. Can you figure out their meanings?

aequus	ius	vir
cīvis	lux	totus
dormire	oculus	salvus
malleus	pater	optimus
fluere	quaero	manus
hospes	rēs	populus
scribere	vērus	culpa

Sources: <http://www.luc.edu/faculty/jlong1/L101pron.htm>, <http://www.covingtoninnovations.com/mc/latinpro.pdf>, [http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/The\\_Latin\\_Language/Pronunciation#cite\\_note-13](http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/The_Latin_Language/Pronunciation#cite_note-13)

