

Latin Study Tips for Students

Warning:
This class is
unlike any you
have had before!

If you think about how you acquired language as a child, you might recall that your first words were simple and were heard and repeated over and over. Because Latin is a “dead” language, we have to figure out ways to simulate the way you learned your first language.



- Listen, read, and speak Latin as often as you can.
- Be an active participant in class.
- Work and/or study with a partner to help each other learn.
- Re-read each day’s lesson & notes at home as part of your daily homework routine.
- Do all homework carefully and with thought.
- Make daily review & practice a part of learning Latin.
- Speak Latin as often as possible, even if you are just reading it aloud.
- Vocabulary is the most important part of any language
 - make vocabulary flash cards & practice with them – Latin forms on one side & English on the other
 - practice writing the words (and meanings) 5 times each – this helps with spelling & word recognition
 - Remember the review games on Quia & the MP3 recordings available online too
- Practice writing Latin. The act of writing helps with grammar & spelling.
- Ask a family member, classmate, or friend to quiz you on your vocabulary.
- Create a binder for notes, test reviews, vocab, and tests -and keep it organized. This is an excellent resource since your textbook does not have many grammar explanations.
- Learn from your mistakes. Use notes, quizzes, and old tests to analyze your mistakes and to study for the next quiz or test.
- Remember: the material in this class is cumulative by nature.
- If you are unsure of something or don’t understand - speak up/ask questions.
- Use the resources provided for you – texts, dictionaries, links, & the class website.
- Magistra Cannon is available most days before school, by appointment, so make an appointment or drop by room 227 to get extra help or ask questions.
- Study Latin a little every day (in addition to your homework) and it will really add up over time!

Studying Latin Vocabulary

Like the good student that you are, you probably study for every vocabulary quiz well in advance. But, if you are not earning the grades that you would like, especially based on the effort that you put into the task – read on. Ask yourself - How, exactly, am I studying? If you are like most, then you probably fall into one or more of these traps: read the list silently to yourself over and over until you are bored with it or fall asleep, fill in the worksheet or write out the forms while in another class or with a noisy TV in the back ground, or cover part of the page and "quiz yourself" over the list silently. Maybe you even make flash cards and hand-write the lists 5 times for extra credit, but are still not really reaping any benefits beyond the extra 5 points. You probably feel like you know the material better than you actually do, and then you take the quiz. Most students stop studying before they have really solidified the data in their memories, and that is later reflected on quiz and test grades that are lower than you would like them to be.

If this describes you, it's time for a change. If what you are trying is not consistently getting you the grades that you want or need, then you must branch out and try another way. ***If at first you don't succeed, then try & try again!*** I have ideas for how you can improve your study habits and techniques, but they change based on your strengths, needs, and what you have already been trying. If you would like individualized assistance, make an appointment with me before school. We can figure out some methods that might help you. In the mean time, these techniques have had the most success for the greatest number of students with vocabulary acquisition.

Fill out the vocabulary sheet with all of your required forms (Nominative, Genitive, & Gender of nouns; Principle Parts of verbs), looking up the ones not provided in your text and practice saying each word– it gives you a complete list to study. **Practice writing out the words with all forms & meaning 5 times** while reading it aloud to yourself. Write the forms out in order each time, E.G. *Nominative then Genitive then Gender*, Nominative, Genitive, & Gender rather than writing the first form 5 times and then the second form 5 times, etc. That way, you are seeing it, hearing it, and writing it at the same time **and** you remember the word as a whole instead of each little part separately. BONUS, if you bring in a hand-written list to show me on the day of the quiz, I give you +4 bonus points on the quiz.

Make flash cards. BONUS, if you bring in a stack of flash cards to show me on the day of the quiz, I give you +3 bonus points on the quiz. Read aloud the Latin forms while writing them on one side of the card; say aloud the English meaning while writing it on the other side. Once you have made the cards, flip through them one-by-one Latin to English, reading them aloud as you go. Divide the cards into 3 piles as you work through them; one pile for words you didn't remember at all; one pile for words you kind of remembered; and one pile for words you know. Flip through the whole stack until you have sorted them all into these 3 piles. Set aside the pile that you knew and shuffle the "Kinda" and the "Didn't know" piles together, and flip through them as before, once more sorting into the 3 piles. Keep flipping through the cards until they are all in the "Know it" pile, and then shuffle that pile and go through it all over again to make sure that you really do know it. Once you can sort them all into the "Know it" pile the first time through, you might think you are done, but you are not. The next step is to start over, from English to Latin, until you no longer miss any of the forms and can sort all of the cards into the "Know it" pile the first time through. You know that your quiz will be both Latin to English and English to Latin, so be prepared for it!

Have someone else quiz you over the words. It could be a parent, tutor, sibling, classmate, etc– just someone other than you! Hand over your flash cards, vocabulary list, or the text, and have him/her quiz you aloud from English-to-Latin, requiring all of the Latin forms in either oral or written response, and then from Latin-to-English, requiring a correct English meaning. Ask him/her to keep quizzing you until you no longer make any mistakes *and* know all of the required forms, or until it is clear that you need to spend some more quality time with your flash cards. Remember that when you are quizzed in class, you will not just sit there by yourself, you will be asked for words, in any order, aloud by me, so it is helpful to study with the same kind of interaction & random pattern. And, you cannot trick yourself into thinking you know them when you are working with someone else.

After all of this, you should have no problem with Vocabulary quizzes, remembering the words after the quiz is over, *and* you will have earned an extra +7 bonus points before you even take the quiz. You will probably also find that your translations start coming much faster and easier *and* your test scores go up too ... it is a lot of work, but it really pays off!