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**Latin** (listen · listen · listen) is a **classical Indo-European language**, the most widely spoken member of the Italic branch of the Indo-European languages. Latin was originally spoken by the Latins in central Italy, but after the expansion of the Roman Republic it became the dominant language in the Italian Peninsula and subsequently throughout the Roman Empire. It has greatly influenced many languages, including English, having contributed many words to the English lexicon, particularly after the Christianization of the Anglo-Saxons and the Norman Conquest. Latin roots appear frequently in the technical vocabulary used by fields such as theology, the sciences, medicine, and law. By the late Roman Empire, Old Latin had evolved into standardized Classical Latin. Vulgar Latin refers to the less prestigious colloquial registers, attested in inscriptions and some literary works such as those of the comic playwrights Plautus and Terence[2] and the author Petronius. While often called a "dead language",[3] Latin did not undergo language death. Between the 6th and 9th centuries, natural language change in the vernacular Latin of different regions evolved into distinct Romance languages. After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, Latin remained the common language of international communication, science, scholarship and academia in Europe into the early 19th century, by which time modern languages had supplanted it in common academic and political usage.Late Latin is the literary form of the language from the 3rd century AD onward. No longer spoken as a native language, Medieval Latin was used across Western and Catholic Europe during the Middle Ages as a working and literary language from the 9th century to the Renaissance, which then developed a classicizing form, called Renaissance Latin. This was the basis for Neo-Latin, which evolved during the early modern period. Latin was taught to be written and spoken at least until the late seventeenth century, when spoken skills began to erode; Contemporary Latin is generally studied by the research and teaching communities in the natural sciences, particularly in the field of biology, and in the humanities, particularly in the field of classical studies. Latin is still used for a variety of purposes in the contemporary world. The signs at Wallendene Metro station are in English and Latin, as a tribute to Wallendene's role as one of the outposts of the Roman Empire, as the eastern end of Hadrian's Wall (hence the name) at Segedunum.The largest organisation that retains Latin in official and quasi-official contexts is the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church required that Mass be carried out in Latin until the Second Vatican Council of 1962/1965, which permitted the use of the vernacular. Latin remains the language of the Roman Rite. 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Latin law principles have survived partly in a long list of Latin legal terms. The Logudorese dialect of the Sardinian language and Standard Italian are the two closest contemporary languages to Latin.[44]A multivolume Latin dictionary in the University of Graz Library in AustriaThroughout European history, Latin words have been used in a variety of contexts, such as by the Catholic Church, in the names of the United States, and in the names of the United States military. Latin is still used for a variety of purposes in the contemporary world. The signs at Wallendene Metro station are in English and Latin, as a tribute to Wallendene's role as one of the outposts of the Roman Empire, as the eastern end of Hadrian's Wall (hence the name) at Segedunum.The largest organisation that retains Latin in official and quasi-official contexts is the Catholic Church. 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The Canadian Victoria Cross is modelled after the British Victoria Cross, which has the inscription "For Valour".Canada is officially bilingual; the Canadian medal has replaced the English inscription with the Latin *Pro Valore*.Spain's motto *Plus ultra* "even further", or figuratively "Further", is also Latin in origin.[31] It is taken from the personal motto of Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor and King of Spain (as Charles I), and is a reversal of the original phrase *Non terrae plus ultra* ("No land further beyond", "No further!"). According to legend, this phrase was inscribed as a warning on the Pillars of Hercules, the rocks on both sides of the Strait of Gibraltar and the western end of the known, Mediterranean world. 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The motto is featured on all presently minted coinage and has been featured in most coinage throughout the nation's history.Several states of the United States have Latin mottos, such as:Arizona's *Ditat Deus* ("God enriches");Connecticut's *Qui transtulit sustinet* ("He who transplanted sustains");Kansas's *Ad Astra per Astra* ("Through hardships, to the stars");Colorado's *Ni sile nunine* ("Nothing without providence");Idaho's *Esto quae perdetur* ("Let it be perished");Michigan's *Si quaeris peninsulam amoenam, circumspece* ("If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about it"), is based on that of Sir Christopher Wren, in St. Paul's Cathedral;Missouri's *Salus populi suprema lex esto* ("The health of the people should be the highest law");New York's *Excelsior* ("Ever upward");North Carolina's *Esse Quam Videri* ("To be rather than to seem");South Carolina's *Dum spiro spero* ("While I breathe, I hope");Virginia's *Sic semper tyrannis* ("Thus always to tyrants");and West Virginia's *Montani semper Liberi* ("Mountaineers [are] always free").Many military organizations today have Latin mottos, such asSemper Paratus ("always ready"), the motto of the United States Coast Guard;Semper Fidelis ("always faithful"), the motto of the United States Marine Corps;Semper Supra ("always above"), the motto of the United States Space Force;Per Ardua ad Astra ("Through adversity to the stars"), the motto of the Royal Air Force (RAF); and*Vigilamus pro te* ("We stand on guard for thee"), the motto of the Canadian Armed Forces.Some law governing bodies in the Philippines have Latin mottos, such as*Iustitia* *Per Opus* ("The work of Justice is Peace"), the motto of the Department of Justice (Philippines).Some colleges and universities have adopted Latin mottos, for example Harvard University's motto is *Veritas* ("truth"). *Veritas* was the goddess of truth, a daughter of Saturn, and the mother of Virtue.Switzerland has adopted the country's Latin short name *Helvetia* on coins and stamps, since there is no room to use all of the nation's four official languages. For a similar reason, it adopted the international vehicle and internet code CH, which stands for *Confoederatio Helvetica*, the country's full Latin name.Some film and television in ancient settings, such as *Sebastiane*, *The Passion of the Christ* and *Barbarians* (2020 TV series), have been made with dialogue in Latin. Occasionally, Latin dialogue is used because of its association with religion or philosophy, in such film/television series as *The Exorcist* and *Lost* ("Jughead"). Subtitles are usually shown for the benefit of those who do not understand Latin. There are also songs written with Latin lyrics. The libretto for the opero-atorio *Oedipus rex* by Igor Stravinsky is in Latin.The continued instruction of Latin is seen by some as a highly valuable component of a liberal arts education. Latin is taught at many high schools, especially in Europe and the Americas. It is most common in British public schools and grammar schools, the Italian liceo classico and liceo scientifico, the German Humanistisches Gymnasium and the Dutch gymnasium.ODP Ep 84 De Ludo "Mysterium": A Latin-language podcastOccasionally, some media outlets, targeting enthusiasts, broadcast in Latin. Notable examples include Radio Bremen in Germany, YLE radio in Finland (the Nuntii Latinii broadcast from 1989 until it was shut down in June 2019),[32] and Vatican Radio & Television, all of which broadcast in Latin segments and other material in Latin.[33][34][35]A variety of organisations, as well as informal Latin circles, have been formed in more recent times to support the use of spoken Latin.[36] Moreover, a number of university classes dedicated to Latin have begun incorporating communicative pedagogies in their Latin courses. These include the University of Kentucky, the University of Oxford and also Princeton University.[37][38]There are many websites and forums maintained in Latin by enthusiasts. The Latin Wikipedia has more than 140,000 articles in Italian, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Romanian, Catalan, Romansh, Sardinian and other Romance languages are direct descendants of Latin. There are also many Latin loanwords in English and Albanian.[39] as well as a few in German, Dutch, Norwegian, Danish and Swedish.[40] Latin is still spoken in Vatican City, a city-state situated in Rome that is the seat of the Catholic Church.Julus Caesar's Commentarii de Bello Gallico is one of the most famous classical Latin texts of the Golden Age of Latin. The unvarnished, journalistic style of this patrician general has long been taught as a model of the urbane Latin officially spoken and written in the flour of the Roman Republic.The works of several hundred ancient authors who wrote in Latin have survived in whole or in part, in substantial works or in fragments to be analyzed in philology. They are in part the subject matter of the field of classics. Their works were published in manuscript form before the invention of printing and are now published in carefully annotated printed editions, such as the Loeb Classical Library, published by Harvard University Press, or the Oxford Classical Texts, published by Oxford University Press.[citation needed]Latin translations of modern literature such as: The Hobbit, Treasure Island, Robinson Crusoe, Paddington Bear, Winnie the Pooh, The Adventures of Tintin, Asterix, Harry Potter, Le Petit Prince, Max and Moritz, How the Grinch Stole Christmas!, The Cat in the Hat, and a book of fairy tales, fables, mirabiles, are intended to garner popular interest in the language. Additional resources include phrasebooks and resources for rendering everyday phrases and concepts into Latin, such as Meissner's Latin Phrasebook.[citation needed]Some inscriptions have been published in an internationally agreed, standardized Latin font on plaques and monuments. 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Received Pronunciation /r/ is not used in the dialects of the northern half of England and Wales. In Received Pronunciation, /r/ is pronounced as a lengthened schwa, [ɹ̥]. In General American, it is phonetically identical to /r/. Some dictionaries therefore use , r instead of the conventional notation /r/. When r is used for /r/, it is distinguished from /r/ by marking the syllable as stressed. ^ /r/ is not distinguished from /r/ in dialects with the hurryrurry merger such as General American. ^ a b In a number of contexts, // in /r/, /l/, /n/, or /m/ is often omitted, resulting in a syllable with no vowel. Some dictionaries show // in those contexts in parentheses, superscript, or italics to indicate this possibility, or simply omit //. When followed by a weak vowel, the syllable may be lost altogether, with the consonant moving to the next syllable, so that doubling /db.l/ may alternatively be pronounced as [db.l], and Edinburgh /d.n.br./ as [d.n.br]. [i] When not followed by a vowel, /r/ merges with // in non-rhotic accents. ^ represents a strong vowel in some contexts and a weak vowel in others. In accents with the weak vowel merger such as most Australian and American accents, weak // is not distinguished from schwa //, making rabbit and abbot rhyme and Lenin and Lennon homophonous. (Pairs like roses and Rosa's are kept distinct in American accents because of the difference in morphological structure.[f] but may be homophonous in Australian.[g]) In these accents, weak /l, n, m/ merge with /l, n, m/, so that the second vowel in Latin may be lost and cabinet may be disyllabic (see the previous note). ^ a b /o/ and /u/ in unstressed, prevocalic positions are transcribed as /w/ by Merriam-Webster, but no other dictionary uniformly follows this practice.[h] Hence the difference between /w/ in Merriam-Webster and /o/ or /u/ in another source is most likely one in notation, not in pronunciation, so /w/ in such cases may be better replaced with /o/ or /u/ accordingly, to minimize confusion: /stwen/ /stuen/, /flwɪr/ /flor/. ^ a b i represents variation between /r/ and // in unstressed prevocalic or morpheme-final positions. It is realized with a quality closer to /r/ in accents with happy tensing, such as Australian English, General American, and modern RP, and to // in others. u likewise represents variation between /u/ and // in unstressed prevocalic positions. ^ The sequence i may be pronounced as two syllables, [i.] or [i.], or as one, [i] or [i]. When pronounced as one syllable in a non-rhotic accent, it may be indistinguishable from, and identified as, the CURE vowel (/r/). [e] This transcription system uses i, not i., j., etc., to cover all these possibilities. ^ The sequence u may be pronounced as two syllables, [u.] or [u.], or as one, [u] or [u]. When pronounced as one syllable in a non-rhotic accent, it may be indistinguishable from, and identified as, the CURE vowel (/r/). [e] This transcription system uses u, not u., w., etc., to cover all these possibilities. ^ In most dialects, /s/ can also be replaced by /k/ in most words, including loch. It is also replaced with /h/ in some words, particularly of Yiddish origin, such as Chanukah. ^ a b /, / are only found in French loanwords and often replaced by another vowel and a nasal consonant: bon vivant /bɔ̃.vi.vɑ̃/, ensemble /ɑ̃.sɑ̃bl/. etc. [j] ^ // is only found in loanwords and represents a situation where such an r-less vowel is used only in British or Southern Hemisphere accents, and therefore a transcription that includes it must always be prefaced with a label indicating the variety of English. If r-ful NURSE is used in GA too, even if spelled without r, as in Goethe and hors d'oeuvre, use /r/. // is also not the same as seen in some American dictionaries. In those dictionaries is merely a notational convention and does not correspond to any vowel in any accent of English, so a transcription containing cannot be converted to one that uses this key. ^ The IPA stress marks, and , come before the syllable that has the stress, in contrast to stress marking in pronunciation keys of some dictionaries published in the United States. ^ Scholars disagree on how to analyze degrees of stress in English. A particular unstressed syllable with phonetic prominence or a full (unreduced) vowel is analyzed by some scholars as having secondary stress. For simplicity, we follow British rather than American English conventions, only marking secondary stress when it occurs before, not after, the primary stress. ^ Syllable divisions are not usually marked, but the IPA dot . may be used when it is wished to make explicit where a division between syllables is (or may be) made. ^ "British English Pronunciations". Oxford English Dictionary. 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(2007), p.98. ^ Wells (1982), pp.3513, 3634. ^ Wells (1982), pp.400, 439. ^ Wells (1982), pp.3801. ^ Wells (1982), pp.6123. ^ a b Stuart-Smith (2004), p.56. ^ Wells (1982), pp.304, 3101. ^ Wells (1982), pp.304, 3123. ^ Stuart-Smith (2004), p.57.Bauer, Laurie; Warren, Paul; Bardsley, Dianne; Kennedy, Marianna; Major, George (2007). "New Zealand English". Journal of the International Phonetic Association. 37 (1): 8396. doi:10.1017/S0025100306002817. S2CID145535175.Jones, Daniel (2011). Roach, Peter; Setter, Jane; Esling, John (eds.). Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary (18thed.). Cambridge University Press. ISBN978-0-521-15255-6.Stuart-Smith, Jane (2004). "Scottish English: phonology". In Schneider, Edgar W.; Burridge, Kate; Kortmann, Bernd; Mesthrie, Rajend; Upton, Clive (eds.). A Handbook of Varieties of English. Vol.1: Phonology. Mouton de Gruyter. pp.4767. doi:10.1515/9783110175325.1.47. ISBN3-11-017532-0.Wells, John C. (1982). Accents of English. 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ISBN978-1-4058-8118-0.Getting JAWS 6.1 to recognize "exotic" Unicode symbols[dead link] for help on getting the screen reader JAWS to read IPA symbolsIPA Reader web-based IPA synthesizer using Amazon PollyPhoneme Synthesis web-based IPA synthesizer using eSpeakRetrieved from " fourth letter of the English alphabet, a consonant.any spoken sound represented by the letter D or d, as in dog, ladder, ladle, or pulled something having the shape of a D a written or printed representation of the letter D or d a device, as a printer's type, for reproducing the letter D or d de (used in French names as an elided form of de) di (used in Italian names as an elided form of di) Electricity.debye; debyes.deep.depth.Optics.dioptrer divorced.Dutch.Informal contraction of do or did before you:How d'you like your eggs cooked?D'you go to the movies last night?the fourth in order or in a series.(sometimes lowercase)(in some grading systems) a grade or mark, as in school or college, indicating the quality of a student's work as poor or barely passing.(sometimes lowercase)a classification, rating, or the like, indicating poor quality.Music.the second tone in the scale of C major, or the fourth tone in the relative minor scale, A minor a string, key, or pipe tuned to this tone.a written or printed note representing this tone.(in the fixed system of solmization) the second tone of the scale of C major, called re.the tonality having D as the tonic note.(sometimes lowercase)the Roman numeral for 500.Chemistry.deuterium. Also 2HElectricity.electric displacement a battery size for 1.5 volt dry cells: diameter, 1.3 inches (3.3 centimeters); length, 2.4 inches (6 centimeters).Biochemistry.aspartic acid.a symbol for a shoe width size narrower than E and wider than C.a proportional brassiere cup size larger than C.date.daughter.day.deceased.deep.degree.delete.Physics.density.depth.duty.dialect.dialectal.diameter.died.dime.dividend.dollar; dollars.dose.drachma.contraction of had:contraction of did:contraction of should or would:He'd like to go. I'd like to remind you of your promise.contraction of -ed.Symbol, Biochemistry.(of a molecule) having a configuration resembling the dextrorotatory isomer of glyceraldehyde: always printed as a small capital, roman character.Symbol, Chemistry, Biochemistry.dextrorotatory; dextro- (-l-).day.December.Democrat.Democratic.Physics.density.Deus.Deuteronomy.Doctor.dose.Dutch.Deutsch: indicating the serial number in the catalogue (1951) of the musical compositions of Schubert made by Otto Deutsch (18831967)Collins English Dictionary Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012politics Democrat(ic)government Departmentdinar(s)Don (a Spanish title)DuchessDuke(in the US and Canada) DoctorCollins English Dictionary Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition William Collins Sons & Co. 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Ltd. 1979, 1986 HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012music a note having a frequency of 293.66 hertz ( D above middle C ) or this value multiplied or divided by any power of 2; the second note of the scale of C majora key, string, or pipe producing this notethe major or minor key having this note as its tonicichem deuteriummaths the first derivative of a function, as in D( x + x ) = 3 x + 2 xphysicsdispersionelectric displacementaeronautics draga semiskilled or unskilled manual worker, or a trainee or apprentice to a skilled worker( as modifier ) See also occupation groupings500 See Roman numeralsCollins English Dictionary Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012Germany (international car registration)informaldefence!n playing D in the match this afternooninformaldefensive playCollins English Dictionary Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012Origin of D1Origin of D2From the Latin word denriOrigin of D1(sense 3 and 6) Latin denariusOrigin of D2(for sense 8) from German DeutschlandC2stochowadaBrowse#aabbcddedffghhijjklmnnnooppqrrssttuuvwwwxyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day! 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC

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