

PASSWORDS

Latin Mottos: Short, Well-known Latin Phrases To Develop Awareness and Appreciation of Latin

We use Latin mottos as passwords. These Latin mottos are phrases that have been around for ages. They have endured because they say what needs to be said better than rival phrases in modern languages. They are so well stated, so short, so precise, and carry so much historical weight that it is often just handier to use Latin to express certain ideas—explaining the implications of a Latin motto could take a whole paragraph or more. Sometimes it’s just easier to use Latin.

There are hundreds of Latin mottos that are used regularly by literate English speakers throughout the world. Students that recognize Latin mottos will be several steps ahead of peers that are not aware of them.

We use these mottos as **passwords**. Students will say the weekly assigned Latin phrase in order to enter the classroom. This is a light-hearted way to begin the class before it formally begins and to personally greet each student. Students may not enter the classroom until they greet the teacher with the password for that week. Find out more about passwords [here](#).

This practice gives students repetitions in saying and hearing these phrases. It cements them into their memories.

Passwords may be introduced with the phrase: **“Secretum habeo...”** *I have a secret...*

1. **Carpe diem.**

Seize the day. Make the most of today.

(CAR-pay DEE-aim)

—**Horace**, Roman poet at the time of Augustus Caesar (65 BC – 8 BC)

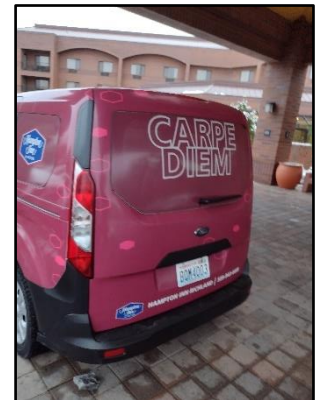
Students will show that they understand what each phrase means, that they are not just mimicking the speech of others, by doing a grabbing motion with both hands as they say it. Random students will be asked to translate it into English and others will be asked what “seizing the day” means.

Here is an expansion of the previous saying for more advanced students:

carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero

(CAR-pay DEE-aim, quahm MEE-nee-moom CRAY-doo-lah paw-STAY-row)

Seize the day, trust as little as possible in tomorrow.



2. **Cui bonō?**

Who benefits?

(kwee BO-no)

—**Lucius Cassius Longinus Ravilla**, Roman politician (151 BC – 107 BC)

- Who is getting the most out of this?
- To whom is this action a benefit?
- This is a good question to ask to figure out what motivates people.
- It is a valuable guiding question that can help us to realize that responsibility for an act probably lies with the one who has something to gain from it.

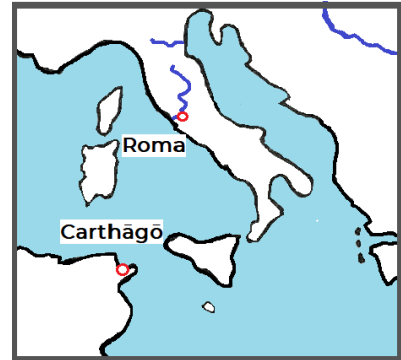
3. **Carthāgō dēlenda est!** *Carthage must be destroyed!*

(car-TAH-go day-LAIN-dah ayst)

—**Cato the Elder**, Roman soldier, senator and historian (234 BC – 149 BC)

Ideally, this famous saying will coordinate with a lesson by the history teacher. Carthage was a large, wealthy city and a major power in the Mediterranean. In the Punic Wars, Rome and Carthage fought three times. The famous Carthaginian general Hannibal nearly conquered Rome.

- Carthage may have been the wealthiest and most impressive city-state in the world at the time and was the mortal enemy of Rome.
- This phrase was used by Cato the Elder after the Second Punic War (218-201 BC) and before the Third Punic war (149-146 BC).
- Cato the Elder used to end his speeches in the Roman Senate with this phrase—even when speaking on another topic.
- A longer version of Cato's saying was:



Ceterum censeo Carthaginem esse delendam!

(kay-TAY-room CANE-say-oh car-tah-GHEE-name AY-say day-LANE-dahm!)

Furthermore, I consider that Carthage should be destroyed!

➔ It would be hilarious if a few students were to end every presentation or recitation of a memory assignment in Latin class with the phrase above!

- Spoiler: Cato got his wish—Carthage was completely destroyed—but he didn't live to see it.
- Through the ages this phrase has come to signify a repetitive insistence that something must be utterly obliterated.
- This is a rallying cry urging people to do their duty, and to completely exterminate a threat to society.
- It underscores a strong belief in the correctness of one's conviction and describes a necessary course of action.

4. **Vēnī, vīdī, vīcī.** *I came, I saw, I conquered.*

(WEH-nee, WEE-dee, WEE-kee)

—**Julius Caesar**, Roman general, author and dictator (100 BC – 44 BC)

HOW TO LOSE YOUR GIRLFRIEND WITH LATIN

"Everybody thinks it's pronounced 'Vee-nee, Vee-dee, Vee-chee' but actually it's 'WEH-nee, WEE-dee, WEE-kee.'"



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- This phrase was used in a letter from Julius Caesar to the Roman Senate describing how he had achieved a quick victory over a much larger army in what is now Turkey.

- The brief phrase echoes Caesar's speedy victory: the phrase is short and to the point, just like Caesar's win.

- It refers to a swift and conclusive victory.

- This phrase is still used in politics, music, art, literature, plays and movies.

- See also these other sayings by or about Julius Caesar: **alea iacta est, cavē idūs martiās, divide et impera**, and **et tu, Brute?**



5. Quid pro quō

(kweed pro coo-oh)

What for what

- Something in exchange for something else.

- Example in a sentence: *In a **quid pro quo** contract, the tree trimmer agreed to wear the greenhouse's logo and share photos on his social media accounts in exchange for money.*

- This phrase is not ancient. It does not occur in classical Latin texts. The first use was in the 1500's. It is common in English-speaking countries.

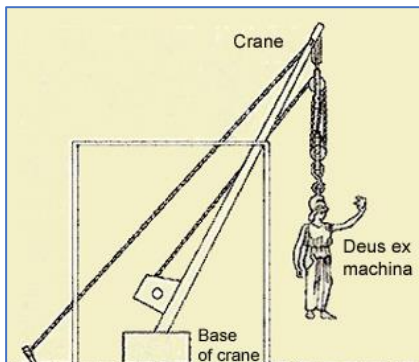
- In some cases, a **quid pro quo** arrangement is made under the table, or in a way that is less than honest.

6. Deus ex machinā

A god from a machine
(DAY-oos ex MACK-ee-nah)

- An unlikely or lucky intervention

- From Greek drama where a "god" would appear from the sky (played by an actor lowered by a crane/mechanical apparatus—a machine) to unexpectedly save the day at the end of a play.



- A **deus ex machina** is a character or thing that suddenly enters a story and conveniently solves a problem that had previously seemed impossible to solve.

- The calvary riding over a hill to save the day is an example of **deus ex machina** in old western movies.

- Today this is seen as a cheating literary device because it runs counter to the logic of the story up to that point. It is regarded as inartistic, overly convenient, simplistic—and far too common.

- **deus ex machina exempla:**

-Cinderella's fairy godmother solves her problems by magically creating a dress, a coach and servants so that she can go to the ball.

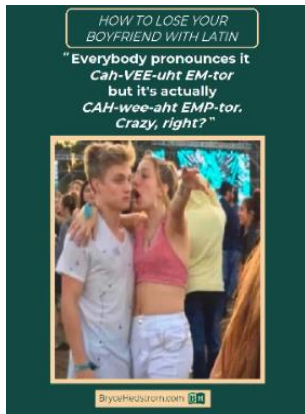
-In 'The Lord of the Rings', the eagles rescue Sam and Frodo when there is seemingly no hope.

-In 'Beauty and the Beast', the beast seems to have died, but Belle's love saves the day, and he returns to life.

7. Caveat emptor.

(CAH-wee-aht EMP-tor)

Let the buyer beware.



- The buyer usually has less information than the seller, so be careful!
- Be sure you know what it is you're buying.
- No refunds, no exchanges. Tough luck!
- A warning on the other side of a sales transaction is **caveat venditor**, *Let the seller beware*.
- **cave canem**, *Beware of dog*, was also an expression used in ancient Rome.
- **caveat lector**, *Let the reader beware*, is another expression that would be useful today, particularly on the internet.



8. Mea culpa.

(MEE-ah COOL-pah)

through my fault; (It is) my fault

- I am guilty.
- "My bad" is how we might express this in the USA today.
- This is a classy way to acknowledge a wrong and to say, "I'm sorry."
- It is also an admission of guilt in court.
- This can be the first phrase when confessing one's sins.
- Related Phrases:

mea maxima culpa: *My greatest fault.* I have failed. This phrase is rarely used outside of Christians confessing their sins.

Ā culpā absunt: *They are not to blame,* is also useful in private confession with your pastor, meaning it is not other people's fault, but my own. I am not blaming anyone else.

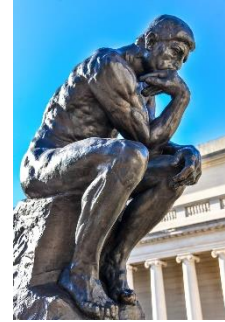
9. **Cōgito, ergō sum.** *I think, therefore I am.*

(co-GHEE-toe AIR-go soom)

—René Descartes, French mathematician and philosopher (AD 1596 – 1650)

Descartes doubted everything—even his own existence. He reasoned that the only thing he could not doubt was his ability to doubt. If all of life were a dream or a deception, the only way to know for sure that he even existed was that he could think.

This was a revolutionary philosophical shift away from the Christian worldview, where God is one who creates and describes truth and reality. This phrase made the doubter the supreme judge of what can and cannot be known. It put man at the center, instead of God.



Descartes believed that the mind was the *only* way to discover truth, but Christians know that the spirit, soul and body have all been corrupted by sin. Descartes assumed that he could think clearly enough to understand, at the core level, where he came from and who he was. But since we are created beings living in a created world, that kind of knowledge can only come **extra nos** (a Latin phrase meaning *from outside of us*). We mortals do not have enough perspective to grasp the whole picture of our existence by ourselves.

cogito, ergo sum, is not sufficient for Christians. It is helpful to know what this phrase means however, because students will hear it used often. Think of it as an inoculation against presumptuous thinking and inadequate philosophy.



For Christians, better sayings along these lines might be:

- **sum, ergo credo**, *I am, therefore I believe.* (You gotta believe in something, make sure it's right!)
- **sum, ergo Iesus me amat**, *I am, therefore Jesus loves me.*
- **sum, ergo Iesus me amat et mortuus est pro me**, *I am, therefore Jesus loves me and died for me.* (Adapted from Galatians 2:20.)
- **credo, ergo loquor**, *I believe, therefore I speak* (Adapted from 2 Corinthians 4: 13.)

Which of the above makes the most sense to you? What else would you add?

10. **in locō parentis** *in the place of parents*

(een LOW-coe pah-Rehn-tees)

- This is a traditional and legal principle giving teachers and schools limited authority over children while they are in their care.
- This concept was traditionally understood to mean that schools and teachers do *not* have the ultimate control or unrestrained authority over students—they just temporarily act on behalf of the parents—with the parents' permission.
- Teachers temporarily take the place of parents. They do not replace parents. The school cannot say, "We will be the parent, not you."

- It means that teachers work *with* parents, they do not usurp, or take over, the role of parents. For example, teachers are not to ask students to go against their parents' wishes or to hide information from parents.
- Teachers do not have greater authority than parents.
- Some schools have forgotten this principle, largely because parents have turned their children over to the schools for all of their education and upbringing – and teachers have naturally taken up the slack.
- A similar thought from Roman history is echoed in *Institutiones Oratoriae* by Quintilian (Roman teacher and writer, 35 – 100 A.D.):

primum, bonus magister scholae in memoria tenet se intrare locum parentes qui liberos ei commiseunt.

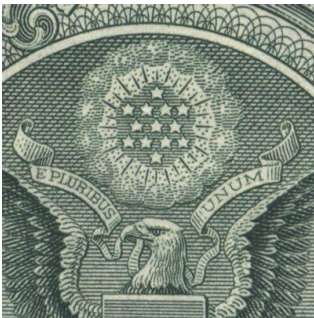
First, a good schoolteacher remembers to enter the place of the parents who entrust their children to him.

11. **Venite adoremus.** *Come, let us worship [Him].*
(weh-NEE-tay ah-doe-RAY-moose)

- This is part of the chorus of the Christmas hymn **adeste fideles**, *O Come Let Us Adore Him*.
- The complete line is **Venite, adoremus Dominum.**
- See Psalm 95: 6

12. **Ē plūribus ūnum.** *Out of many, one.*
(ay PLOO-ree-boos OO-noom)

—**Virgil**, author of *The Aeneid*, Roman poet at the time of Augustus Caesar, (70 BC – 19 BC)



- It represents the federal nature of the USA—out of many states, one country.
- This is the **de facto** (true in fact, but not official) motto of the United States.
- The **de jure** (official, by law) motto of the USA has been “In God we trust” since 1956.
- This Latin phrase is found on the back of a **U.S. one dollar bill**. It is on the right side; on the banner in the eagle’s beak.
- The motto "**E Pluribus Unum**" has been engraved on most U.S. coins since the late-nineteenth century. It is also on some bills.
- See also the Latin phrases **annuit coeptis** and **novus ordo seclorum**, which are also on the back of the one-dollar bill.
- Students were given bags with various U.S. coins and bills to see if they could find these Latin sayings.

13. **Ālea iacta est.** *The die is cast.*
(AH-lee-ah YAHK-tah ayst)

—Julius Caesar, Roman general, author and dictator (100 BC – 44 BC)

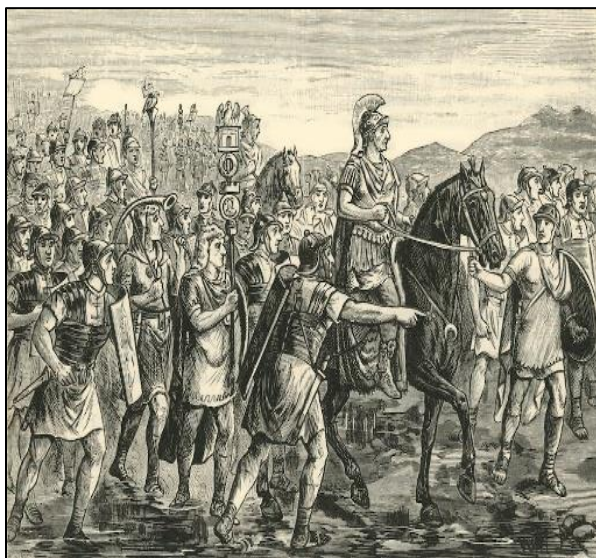


The word *die* is the singular form; *dice* is the plural: more than one.

Once a die is thrown or cast, you cannot take it back. You have to play that number. Saying “**ālea iacta est.**” is similar to saying “The dice have been rolled.”

You handed in your test and then thought of a better answer later? Well, too bad—You get what you get, **ālea iacta est.**

In January of 49 B.C. Julius Caesar and his army, fresh from conquering Gaul (France), approached a small river, the Rubicon, in northern Italy. The Rubicon divided Italy from Gaul. Crossing the Rubicon River and entering Italy with an army meant the start of a civil war, so Caesar hesitated on the riverbank. A river god supposedly appeared, blew a trumpet, and sped across the Rubicon toward Rome. Caesar immediately crossed the river and said the famous line: **Ālea iacta est**, meaning that it had been decided. There were no do-overs.



By Roman law, Julius Caesar had the legal right to lead his army while he was in Gaul, but not in Italy. The Rubicon River was the border between Italy and Gaul. When he crossed the Rubicon, Julius Caesar was committing himself and his troops to marching on Rome. Crossing the Rubicon was not only an act of war, it was also the defining moment of Julius Caesar’s career — and the beginning of the end of the Roman Republic.

A closely related phrase still used today is “**Crossing the Rubicon**”. It describes an action from which there is no going back, where you cannot make a U-turn or decide against it.

What are some “crossing the Rubicon” decisions you are aware of?

14. **Memento mori.** *Remember that you will die.*
(may-MAIN-toe MOE-ree)

- A reminder that we are mortal, and therefore need to make the most of each day. It is a similar thought to **carpe diem**, but more serious.
- Martin Luther, like many scholastics of his time, had a skull on the desk in his study to remind him to make the most of each day.



• “**memento mori**” was whispered over and over into the ear of victorious Roman generals by a slave assigned this duty as the general paraded through the city celebrating military victories. It was intended to keep him humble.

• Tertullian, a prolific Christian author from Carthage, in north Africa (155-220 A.D.) said something similar:

Respice post tē! Hominem tē esse memento!

Look behind you! Remember that you are a man!

• **Memento Mori** is also a genre of art that has endured throughout the ages to remind viewers of the reality of their death, most often with skulls. This artwork graphically shows that death is coming for us all to help us prepare for it.

• The Mexican celebration on All Saints Day, *El Día de los Muertos* (The Day of the Dead), has a **memento mori** feel to it.

• **Memento vivire** (*Remember to live*) uses the opposite word to express a similar thought—make the most of your life; live while you can.

15. **persōna nōn grāta** *an unwelcome person*

(pair-SO-nah known GRAH-tah)

- Someone that the group does not want around.
- An unacceptable person
- Mainly used in diplomacy or social settings

Are you aware of students, church members, or neighbors that is being treated as if they were a **persona non grata**? What could you do to help them feel more included and welcome?

16. **Sōli Deō Glōria.** *Glory to God alone. (Abbreviated as SDG)*

(SO-lee DAY-oh GLOW-ree- ah)

• This was a motto of the Protestant Reformation, one of the “solae” (solas).

• Other Reformation “sola” mottos are:

Sola fide (*faith alone*),

Sola gratia (*grace alone*),

Sola scriptura (*scripture alone*), and

Solus Christus (*Christ alone*).

• The **solas** were a corrective to the perceived excesses of the Roman Catholic church at the time.

• Together, the **solas** describe the formula of justification usually articulated as ‘the Christian is justified by grace, through faith, on account of Christ alone.’



• Great composers like George Frideric Handel and Christoph Graupner signed their musical compositions with **S.D.G.** to show that their work was created to glorify God, and not themselves.

• **Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam**, for the Greater Glory of God, is a similar Latin expression, commonly abbreviated **AMDG**. This expression is related to this scripture verse:

1 Corinthians 10:31: **So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.**

• The German composer Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), a devoted Lutheran, also signed his work with **SDG** or **AMDG**.

17. Post hōc, ergō prōpter hōc. *After this, therefore caused by this.*
(post hoke, AIR-go PROPE-tare hoke)

• Just because something happened first, that doesn't always mean it caused the next event.

• This is a common logical fallacy of induction that is committed when one incorrectly infers that just because something happened first, it caused what followed.

• Example: The rooster always crows before the sun comes up, so the rooster must be what causes the sun to rise.

• What are some other *post hoc, ergo propter hoc* errors in reasoning you have noticed?

18. Cavē idūs martiās. *Beware the Ides of March!*
(CAH-way EE-deuce mar-TEE-ahs)



• March 15th is the Ides of March.

• In ancient Rome, it was a date to settle debts.

• It was also considered an unlucky date.

• It is remembered as the date in 44 B.C. when Julius Caesar was assassinated, a turning point in Roman history.

• According to Plutarch, a soothsayer warned Julius Caesar that harm would come to him on the Ides of March.

• This warning was famously dramatized in Act 1, Scene II, and again in Act 3, Scene I of Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar*.

• Other well-known expressions that use a form of **cavēre** (*to beware*):

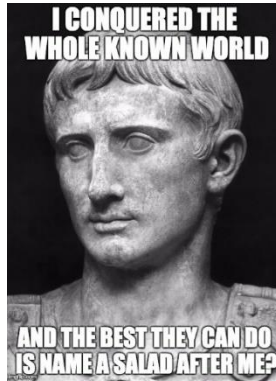
Caveat emptor. *Buyer beware.*

Cavē canem. *Beware of dog.*

19. **Et tu, Brute?**
 (ate too, BREW-tay?)

And you, Brutus? You too, Brutus?

- This is Shakespeare's version of Julius Caesar's last words.
- It is a brief Latin quote from Act 3, Scene I of William Shakespeare's famous tragic play, *Julius Caesar*.
- As he is being stabbed by a group of 60 senators, Caesar asks this of his supposed friend and heir, Brutus, when he realizes he is also among the assassins.
- The phrase denotes an unexpected betrayal by a friend.
- Some Roman historians reported that Caesar's last words were the Greek phrase "Kai su teknon" (**Και συ τέκνον**) which means "You too child?", which in Latin would be: "ō mī fili?"
- See also **cavē idūs martiās**.



convivium = "living together"; a feast, banquet, dinner party; denotes sharing food and drink, but more than that: meeting and conversing with friends. A backyard barbecue may be the social equivalent in middle class America.

- The Roman orator Cicero (106 BC-43 BC) lamented that the term *convivium* and its practice had gone out of style in his day.

20. **Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudearum** *Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews*
 (ee-YAY-soos nah-zah-RAY-noos rex ee-oo-day-OH-room)



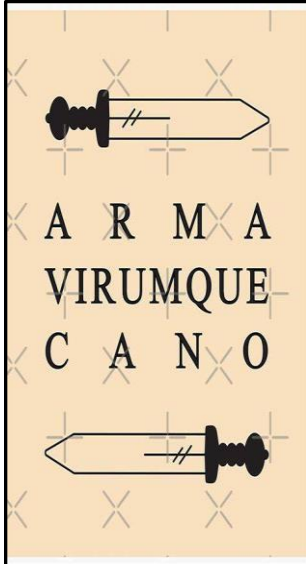
- These are the words Pontius Pilate ordered posted on the cross above Jesus.
- The phrase was written in Hebrew, Greek and Latin (**John 19:19-22**), the three leading languages at the time—perhaps alluding to the past (Hebrew), present (Greek) and future (Latin) languages in that part of the world. Assuring that everyone would understand what was written.
- God speaks in terms of present, past, and future here also: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." (**Revelation 1:8**)

- **INRI** is the common abbreviation for this phrase on a crucifix.

21. **Arma virumque canō.** *Of weapons (warfare /battles) and a man I sing.*

(AR-ma wee-ROOM-kway CAH-no)

—**Virgil**, (70 BC – 19 BC) author of *The Aeneid*. Roman poet at the time of Augustus Caesar, and near the time of Jesus.



- This may be the most famous line in the Latin language.
- It is the beginning of Virgil's great epic Latin poem about the early history of Rome, *The Aeneid*.
- *The Aeneid* was written at the beginning of the Roman Empire, shortly after the end of the Roman Republic.
- It is the story of a Trojan man, Aeneas, and his battle-filled journey taking his people from Troy to Italy, and the eventual founding of Rome.
- In *The Aeneid*, Virgil gave the Romans a mythic history like Homer did for the Greeks with *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*—and he announces that he is telling a story like both of Homer's books in one with just three Latin words.
- *The Aeneid* describes Aeneas as the ancestor of **Romulus** and **Remus**, and of **Augustus Caesar**.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS LINE AND THE BOOK IT CAME FROM SO FAR?

These questions may be asked at the door as you say this password.

There will also be a quiz like this the week we use it

1. *What does this mean in English?*
2. *Where does this line come from?*
3. *Who wrote it?*
4. *When did the author live? (Either the years, or who else lived around that time)*
5. *Was this written during the time of the Roman Republic or the Roman Empire?*
6. *Who was the Roman emperor at the time it was written?*
7. *Who is the main character in The Aeneid?*
8. *Where was he from?*
9. *What famous Greek story takes place in that city?*
10. *Where did the hero of this story take his people?*
11. *This hero was supposedly the ancestor of _____, _____, and _____.*
(Which three major figures in Roman history?)
12. *In your opinion, what is more important, family, duty, and loyalty (like Aeneas) or individual glory, fame, and innovation (like Odysseus)? Both? Neither? Other qualities?*

A BETTER HERO?

- Who was the better hero, **Aeneas** or **Odysseus**?
- What is more important, family, duty, and loyalty (like Aeneas) or individual glory, fame, and innovation (like Odysseus)?
- **Aeneas**, Virgil's Roman hero, embodies different character traits than **Odysseus**, Homer's Greek hero.



- Aeneas, the protagonist of *The Aeneid*, was a worthy hero to the Romans, because he saved the lives of his crew and their families through many harrowing adventures, while Odysseus, the Greek hero of *The Odyssey*, returned home alone—all his men were lost.
- Odysseus fought for his own glory and preserved only his own life, while Aeneas fought for his people and brought them safely to a new land. To be fair though, Odysseus was not entirely self-centered; he was faithful to his wife and returned to her at the end of his odyssey.
- In *The Odyssey*, the gods helped Odysseus because he was brave and crafty. In *The Aeneid*, the gods helped Aeneas because he was honorable, responsible and cared for his people.
- For centuries, traditional western culture leaned towards the values of Aeneas over Odysseus. What about now in our culture?
- We may eventually read and listen to a simplified version of parts of *The Aeneid* [like this one](#).

Here are the opening lines of *The Aeneid*.

How much of this can you memorize?

1 Arma virumque canō, Trōiae quī p̄rimus ab ōrīs	<i>Of weapons (warfare, battles) and a man I sing, who first from the shores of Troy</i>
2 Ītaliā, fātō profugus, Lāvīniaque vēnit	<i>To Italy, a fugitive by fate and to Lavinia he came</i>
3 litora, multum ille et terrīs iactātus et altō	<i>Much buffeted, both on land and thrown on the high (seas)</i>
4 vī superum saevae memorem Iūnōnis ob īram;	<i>In the most extreme savagery remembering Juno's anger;</i>
5 multa quoque et bellō passus, dum conderet urbem,	<i>Many things also in war he suffered, while he was building a city,</i>
6 inferretque deōs Latīō, genus unde Latīnum,	<i>And brought his gods to Latium [Italy], from which comes the Latin race,</i>
7 Albānique patrēs,	<i>And the Alban fathers</i>

atque altae moenia Rōmae.

And the high walls of Rome.

—Virgil, PUBLI VERGILI MARONIS, AENEIDOS, Liber I

- The opening lines of *The Aeneid*, Book 1
- These are some of the most famous lines in all Latin.

→ → → → • Latin students often memorize this entire passage.

- [Here](#) is what it sounds like.

22. Vōx populī, vōx Deī.

The voice of the people is the voice of God.

(vauks pop-oo-LEE, vauks day-EE, in English often pronounced vauks POP-oo-lee, vauks DAY-ee)



• This saying is usually taken to mean "the opinion of the majority should be obeyed", i.e., that rulers should do what most of the people want—that they should follow the mob. But that is not how it was meant initially.

• Billionaire Elon Musk used this Latin phrase without translation (apparently assuming literate readers would understand it) in a tweet on November 19, 2022.

• The phrase did not originate in ancient Rome.

• The first recorded instance of it was in the year 798 A.D. in a letter to the emperor Charlemagne, emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, also known as the **Pater Europea** (Father of Europe), 768-814.)

• The original use of the saying did not endorse blindly following the crowd—quite the opposite. It was used to argue

that doing what the mob wanted was not wise.

• Alcuin of York wrote to Charlemagne (in Latin):

**Nec audiendi qui solent dicere, Vox populī, vōx Dei,
quum tumultuositas vulgi semper insanīae proxima sit.**

“Those people should not be listened to who tend to say, ‘The voice of the people is the voice of God’, because the clamor of the common people is always close to madness.”

• Alcuin was counseling that the crowd was not always right, that the crowd in fact may *never* be right.

• Here is a passage from the Old Testament that is similar to Alcuin’s use of **Vōx populī, vōx Deī** in that the popular, but unwise, demand of the people was granted—with disastrous results:

1 Samuel 8:4-7, 9, 19-22 ⁴Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah ⁵and said to him, “Behold, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.” ⁶But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to the LORD. ⁷And the LORD said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.

⁹Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

¹⁹But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, “No! But there shall be a king over us, ²⁰that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.” ²¹And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the LORD. ²²And the LORD said to Samuel, “Obey their voice and make them a king.”

Even God Almighty gives in to the **vōx populi** sometimes, giving people what they demand. Spoiler Alert: This never works out well.

WHAT DO YOU UNDERSTAND ABOUT THIS PHRASE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS?

1. *What is the translation of this phrase in English?*
2. *Did it come from ancient Latin?*
3. *This phrase comes from a letter giving advice to _____ (whom?)*
4. *What do most moderns think this phrase means?*
5. *Is this advising that leaders should always follow the mob?*
6. *In context, what did it originally mean?*
7. *Does even God give in and allow people to do what they want sometimes?*
8. *What are some other examples of this in the Bible?*
9. *What are some examples in history of leaders unwisely giving in to the wishes of the mob?*

23. Ad hominem

(ahd hoe-ME-name)

To the man

- In a discussion or debate, an **argumentum ad hominem** is an argument that attacks an opponent’s character, appearance or reputation, instead of the issue being discussed: *Oh yeah? Well, you’re just a big fat stupid head, so there!*
- It is a cheap shot, and a diversion that is often used when losing an argument.
- This tactic can also be extremely effective because people are not always logical and are easily distracted by emotional attacks.
- **Ad hominem** attacks are seen every day on social media, especially in political discussions. Politicians *love* to use them.
- Give some examples of **ad hominem** attacks you have heard (or said!).

24. Ad astra per aspera.

(ahd AHS-trah purr AHS-pear-ah)

To the stars through hardship.

(Versions of this saying were written by Virgil and Seneca the Younger.)



- We often reach the heights and become our best only through suffering.
- This is the motto of the US state of Kansas, and also the original motto of "Starfleet" in the fictional Star Trek universe.
- Can you understand how the Latin motto applies in each of the 8 boxes?

Nota bene:

• **sic** means "thus." It is short for "It was written thus" or "That is the way it was written in the original—it's not my fault that it was written poorly or spelled wrong—I just copied it down."

• **Ad astra per alas porci** (To the stars by the wings of a pig) was a favorite saying of the Nobel Prize winning author John Steinbeck (*Of Mice and Men, East of Eden, The Grapes of Wrath*). A professor told him that he would be an author when pigs fly. Steinbeck often signed his books with a drawing of a pig and included this Latin motto.

- **Citius, altius, fortius** is the motto of the Olympic Games: Faster, higher, stronger.

25. **Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum** *the Word of the Lord remains forever.*
(WEAR-boom doe-MEE-nee MAH-net in eye-TARE-noom)



- This Latin phrase was the motto of the Lutheran Reformation.
- It is a bold declaration of the power and authority of the Word of God.
- Abbreviated as **VDMA**, often in a cross pattern.

"It became the official motto of the Smalcaldic League and was used on flags, banners, swords, and uniforms as a symbol of the unity of the Lutheran laity who struggled to defend their beliefs, communities, families, and lives against those who were intent on destroying them. It was found inscribed inside churches, over doorways, on foundation stones, even on horse helmets! The VDMA logo and statement has appeared throughout Lutheran churches worldwide and remains an enduring motto of the Reformation to this day."

<https://lutheranreformation.org/history/the-motto-of-the-reformation/>



- It is based on 1 Peter 1:25:

**Verbum autem Domini manet in aeternum:
hoc est autem verbum, quod evangelizatum est in vos.**

But the word of the Lord remains forever:

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.



A Lutheran church in Brasov, Transylvania, Romania

Passwords Review and test (next pages).

PASSWORDS REVIEW / FINAL TEST

Latin Mottos: Short, Well-known Latin Phrases
To Develop Awareness and Appreciation of Latin

Write each phrase in Latin. For the “What does this mean?” question explain something about the phrase such as: a) When it was used, b) How it was / is used, c) Where it is seen / used, d) Why it is useful, or e) How you could use it in your life to help you make wise and/or informed decisions.

1. **Seize the day.** _____

What does this mean? _____

2. **Who benefits?** _____

What does this mean? _____

3. **Carthage must be destroyed!** _____

What does this mean? _____

4. **I came, I saw, I conquered.** _____

What does this mean? _____

5. **What for what.** _____

What does this mean? _____

6. **A god from a machine.** _____

What does this mean? _____

7. **Let the buyer beware.** _____

What does this mean? _____

8. **(It is) my fault. / I am guilty.** _____

What does this mean? _____

9. **I think, therefore I am.** _____

What does this mean? _____



10. **In the place of parents.** _____

What does this mean? _____

11. **Come, let us worship (Him).** _____

What does this mean? _____

12. **Out of many, one.** _____

What does this mean? _____

13. **The die is cast.** _____

What does this mean? _____

14. **Remember that you will die.** _____

What does this mean? _____

15. **An unwelcome person.** _____

What does this mean? _____

16. **Glory to God alone.** _____

What does this mean? _____

17. **After this, therefore caused by this.** _____

What does this mean? _____

18. **Beware the Ides of March!** _____

What does this mean? _____

19. **And you, Brutus? You too, Brutus?** _____

What does this mean? _____

20. **Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews** _____

What does this mean? _____

21. **Of weapons and a man I sing.** _____

What does this mean? _____

22. **The voice of the people is the voice of God.** _____

What does this mean? _____

23. **To the man.** _____

What does this mean? _____

24. **To the stars through hardship / difficulties.** _____

What does this mean? _____

25. **The Word of the Lord remains forever.** _____

What does this mean? _____

PIG LATIN COMIC

With the Latin mottos that we have learned in mind, explain what is happening in each of the eight boxes in the cartoon below. Write:

(A) The translation of the Latin expression in English.

(B) How it applies to the pig in the comic. What must it be thinking?

Nota bene:

• **sic** means “thus.” It is short for “It was written thus” or “That is the way it was written in the original—it’s not my fault that it was written poorly or spelled wrong—I just copied it down!”

• **Ad astra per alas porci** (To the stars by the wings of a pig) was a favorite saying of the Nobel Prize winning author John Steinbeck (*Of Mice and Men*, *East of Eden*, *The Grapes of Wrath*). A professor told him that he would be an author when pigs fly. Steinbeck often signed his books with a drawing of a pig and included this Latin motto.

• **Citius, altius, fortius** is the motto of the Olympic Games: Faster, higher, stronger.

1 A.

1 B.

2 A.

2 B.

3 A.

3 B.

4 A.

4 B.

5 A.

5 B.

6 A.

6 B.

7 A.

7 B.

8 A.

8 B.

