Latin Pronunciation Guide
Classical Pronunciation

Carmenta
Online Latin Tutors

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Vowels

The pronunciation of vowels depends on whether they are long or short. In a dictionary, long vowels will have a macron over them, short vowels will not.

A (long)	ah	*as in* **father**	example: **Ītalia**
A (short)	uh	*as in* **Maria**	example: **lūna**
E (long)	ay	*as in* **hay**	example: **ēvenio**
E (short)	eh	*as in* **bet**	example: **venter**
I (long)	ee	*as in* **machine**	example: **sīcut**
I (short)	ih	*as in* **bit**	example: **missus**
O (long)	oh	*as in* **flow** *without the final "w" sound*	example: **nōn**
O (short)	oar (without the *r* sound)	*as in* **order**	example: **hortus**
U	oo	*as in* **tulip**	example: **tua**
Y	ee	*pronounced exactly like Latin long **I** sound, as in* **machine**	example: **hymnus**
AE	aye	*as in* **by**	example: **aeterna**
OE	oy	*as in* **boy**	example: **coepit**
AI	aye	*as in* **by**	examples: 　**ait** 　**Cāius**

AU	ow	*as in* **now**	example: **laudāmus**

EI	ay	*as in* **day**	examples:
			  rei
			  ēia

EU	ay-oo or eh-oo slurred together	*like the vowel sounds of* **day** *and* **you** *in quick succession*	examples:
			  meus
			  ēheu

*"ai", "ei", and "eu" can be pronounced as two separate syllables or as diphthongs depending on the context; "au" is always a diphthong

UA	oo-ah *or* wah		examples:
			  quā
			  suāvis
			  sua

UE	oo-eh *or* weh		examples:
			  anguem
			  ēruens

UI	oo-ee *or* oo-ih *or* wee *or* wih		examples:
			  aliqui
			  docuit

UO	oo-oh *or* woh		examples:
			  equō
			  abnuo

"ua", "ue", "ui", and "uo" can be pronounced as two separate syllables or as diphthongs depending on the context

Consonants

B	b	*as in* **bat**	example: **bonae**
C	k	*as in* **cut**	example: **sacris**
CH	k	*as in* **cut**	example: **chorus**
D	d	*as in* **down**	example: **donā**
F	f	*as in* **feet**	example: **fīlius**
G	g	*as in* **gold**	example: **grātia**
H	h	*as in* **hair**	example: **hōra**
J	y	*as in* **yet**	example: **ejus (eius)** *[written as "i" in Classical Period]*
K	k	*as in* **key**	example: **kalendae**
L	l	*as in* **light**	example: **līber**
M	m	*as in* **moon**	example: **meum**
N	n	*as in* **nice**	example: **dōnec**
P	p	*as in* **pan**	example: **prīma**
PH	f	*as in* **phone**	example: **prophēta**
QU	kw	*as in* **quick** *[Just as in English, the letter "q" is always followed by "u" and they are pronounced together as a single sound.]*	example: **quando**
R	r	*as in* **rest** *[but with a slight trill, and never as intense as the English* R*]*	example: **rēgīna**
S	s	*as in* **sing**	example: **semper**

T	t	*as in* **time**	example: **erat**
TH	t	*as in* **thyme**	example: **theātrum**
V	v	*as in* **wine**	example: **vīnum**
X	ks	*as in* **tax**	example: **lux**
Z	dz	*as in* **seeds**	example: **Gāza**

Rules of Accent

ultima: the last syllable of a word

penult: the second-to-last syllable of a word

antepenult: the third-to-last syllable of a word

1) If a word has one syllable, accent that one syllable.

2) If a word has two syllables, accent the first of the two syllables.

3) If a word has three or more syllables, then it is accented on either the penult or the antepenult, and you need to use the following Rules of Accent to determine which of the two syllables is accented.

1) If the penult is long, accent it. If the penult is short, accent the antepenult.

2) How to tell if the penult is long:

        a) It contains a diphthong, or

        b) It is long by nature (it has a macron over the vowel), or

        c) It is long by position (it is followed by two consecutive consonants).

If it fits into none of these three categories, then the penult is short.

Also, remember that a vowel followed by a vowel is always short.