Classical Latin step by step

A beginner's course in Latin

Lesson I

„Latin doesn't have to be scary!"

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Latin step by step – Lesson I

On the menu today:

- Latin, Classical Latin, Church Latin, Pig Latin?

- How to not be understood in Latin America and all parts of the former Roman empire

- First steps in Latin, with exercises

- What you absolutely need to remember

- Extension (what to say when a time machine catapults you into Ancient Rome
OR: how to impress your friends)

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Introduction to Classical Latin

- Latin was spoken by Romans, conquered nations, anybody who wanted to become wealthy...

- ... and later the church, scientists and the educated even up into the early 20th century!

- Latin changed over the years, like any language, and it acquired new words and new ways of saying things...

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Introduction to Classical Latin

- Classical Latin is the <u>written</u> language used during the Golden Age of Latin literature, approximately 1st century BC to 1st century AD

- Knowledge of Classical Latin will allow you to read the great works of literature of that time and gain unique insights into a very different world

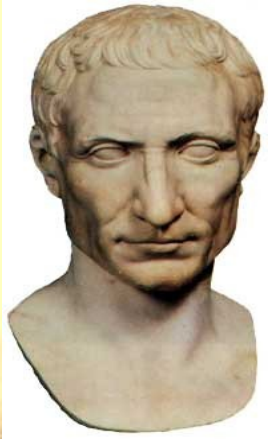- Knowledge of Classical Latin can be the basis for learning Church Latin, Medieval Latin or Neo-Latin

Pronouncing Classical Latin

- no recordings were made ;-)
- educated guesses based on poem rhythm and the like
- every country (and sometimes every teacher) has its own pronunciation, which means that communicating in Latin across countries is very difficult
- if you have to prove knowledge of Latin at school, use their pronunciation, otherwise use the version that sounds appealing to you

First steps in Latin

Hic est Gaius Julius Caesar.

Gaius Julius Caesar rex est.

Ibi est Marcus.

Marcus gladiatorius est.

Quis est? Lucia est. Estne Lucia rex?

Lucia rex non est, Lucia femina est.
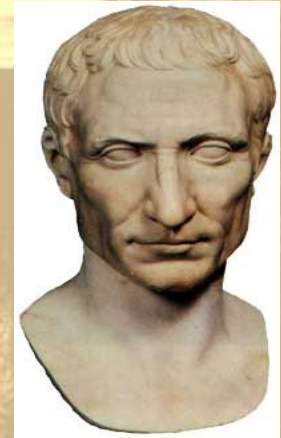
Practise

Quis est?
Ma... ... .
Ma... gla... ... .

Quis est?
Ga... Ju... Cae... ... .

Est.. gladiatorius?
Gladiatorius n... ... .
R... ... .

Practise

... est?
 Lu... est.
 Lu... fe... est.
 Lu... r... n... est.

First steps in Latin

Marcus in amphitheatro est. In arena est.

Gaius Julius Caesar etiam in amphitheatro est, sed non in arena.

Ubi est Lucia? Lucia in amphitheatro non est.

(story to be continued)

... est Marcus? Marcus in amphitheatro est.

What to remember

- Words in Latin Yoda easy to understand make

- Often the verb at the end of the sentence is

- "est" is the easiest sentence. Also non forget that "non" makes a sentence negative.

- W-question words: "quis" and "ubi"

- A yes/no question? Add -ne to the verb

- Typical name/word endings are -us for men, -a for women, any consonant for those pesky little words that are hard to memorize

Test yourself

Really important:

- est
- ubi
- femina
- quis
- non
- rex
- -ne (e. g. "estne")

Not so important:

- amphitheatrum
- hic
- ibi
- gladiatorius
- etiam
- arena
- sed

Extension (Latin for everyday non-use)

- Quid est nomen tuum? / Quis es?
- Nomen meum "Tom" est. / "Tom" sum. In arena sum. Mortuus sum.
- Esne femina? Estne tibi amicus?

- Esse aut non esse
- Cogito ergo sum

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