



PROVEN STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE LATIN LEARNING

Learning Vocabulary

- 1) Start early. Always begin studying for your vocabulary quizzes several days in advance. Give yourself time to learn and internalize the material.
- 2) Read the vocabulary outloud to yourself. Hear the word while you're reading it.
- 3) Look for derivatives. A large percentage of the words in the English language come from Latin. If you can find an English word related to the Latin, it will be easier to remember.
- 4) Pay attention to part of speech. Remember:
 - A) nouns have nominative, genitive, gender, and meaning
 - B) adjectives have a masculine, feminine, and neuter form in the nominative case (they may be separate forms or combined into one form if they are all the same), may list a genitive, and meaning
 - C) verbs have principal parts, may take their object in a particular case, and meaning
 - D) prepositions take their object in a particular case
- 5) Find the strategy that works for you. Learning vocabulary is an exercise in memorization. Here are several techniques you can try:
 - A) Read and re-read the words several times, paying close attention to spelling and changes in spelling.
 - B) Write the vocabular words down several times in a row. Check to make sure you are spelling the words correctly.
 - C) Have some call out the words to you out loud. They can call out the Latin or the English and you give them the rest of the required information.
 - D) Make flash cards and quiz yourself. Write the English on one side and the Latin information on the other. As you learn the words, take the cards out of the stack and concentrate on the ones that are the most difficult for you.
 - E) Take a sheet of notebook paper and fold it down the middle, lengthwise. Unfold it. On the left of the crease in the paper, write the Latin information. On the right side of the crease, write the English. Then fold it again and flip the paper back and forth, testing yourself on both the Latin and English.
- 6) Review your vocabulary words several different times. If it is Monday and you have a vocabulary quiz on Wednesday. Look at the words on Monday and make use of one of the techniques listed in #5 above. Look at the words again on Tuesday, giving yourself time to really learn the words. Review the words again on Wednesday at some point before the quiz.

- 7) Check your work. During the quiz, make sure that you are answering every question. Write legible so that your answers can be easily read. After the quiz before it is turned in, review your work, making sure that you check the spelling, meanings, and that you have included all necessary information, such as gender, case, and other pertinent information.
- 8) Go over your graded vocabulary quizzes. Take a look when the quiz is returned and determine where your problems are. If there is a spelling problem, you know that you need to concentrate in that area. If you are not including the correct gender of a noun or the correct case a preposition takes, you know that you should focus your attention to those details.

Translating Latin Passages

- 1) Give yourself enough time to complete the assignment. Don't rush through it or stop in the middle.
- 2) Read the Latin, preferably out loud, before translating. Get a feeling for what the passage is all about in Latin before you turn it into English.
- 3) Read over the footnotes so that you know what help and information is available to you when you need it.
- 4) Begin translating the passage, looking up the words you do not know. When looking up words, choose the meaning appropriate for the context of the passage.
- 5) Pay attention to the forms and the endings of words. If there is a form or ending you do not recognize, look it up. Determine whether this particular word is a new form we have been discussing in class.
- 6) Trust yourself! Do not look up every word or every form. Use context and logic and make use of what you know.
- 7) Work as much as possible left to right, as the passage was intended to be read.
- 8) If what you are translating does not make any sense, you most likely have made a mistake. Look up the words again, check their form, etc. Work on it until you have produced a good sentence which make sense in the context of the passage.
- 9) Take a look at the assignment a couple times before it is checked in class. Refresh your memory and give yourself time to learn the material.
- 10) Pay attention to the passage when we are going over it in class. Follow along with us as we translate each sentence and see how the vocabulary, forms, and constructions work together. When students are looking ahead or digging for vocabulary in the back of the book, they never get a correct reading for the passage.

