



Latin Handwriting

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OBJECTIVES

You will be able to:

- use online resources to help you read Latin documents
- learn basic Latin grammar in order to determine relationships
- read Latin documents at a basic level

Usefulness

Latin has been the language of the Church for centuries and many records were written in Latin, either in toto or in part. Being able to read Latin gives you access to the information in many records.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Latin is an Indo-European language, which means that it is related to English, German, Russian, and number of other languages, mostly found in Europe and in a swath that reaches into India. It is the mother language of French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Romanian, and a few other languages, which we designate as 'Romance'. English has borrowed thousands of words from Latin and the other Romance languages, especially French. This has changed the vocabulary of English tremendously and has led some people to believe that English is descended from Latin. Such is not the case. English is a Germanic language, mostly closely related to Dutch, Frisian, German, Afrikaans, and the Scandinavian languages. However, the borrowing of so many Latin-based words into English makes reading Latin much easier for the English speaker than it would have been had such borrowing not occurred.

Here is how to search a webpage for a specific word:

On a PC press the 'control' button and hold it down while you press the 'F' button. Depending on the browser you use, a box will appear at the top right, left, or bottom left. Type a word or any letter string, i.e. part of a word, into the box. That letter string will then be highlighted. If there is more than one occurrence of that string, such will be indicated and you can click the arrow to find each occurrence.

On a Mac it's the command and f button at the same time.

Dictionaries, word lists and other aides:

1- FamilySearch Latin Genealogical Word List

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List

This is the site to start with when looking for genealogical terms. It includes subsections for topical vocabulary items, such as numbers, key words, and abbreviations. The general word list is Latin to English.

2- Google Translate <https://translate.google.com/>

This is an easy-to-use site. You can search either Latin to English or English to Latin.

3- How to decline personal names

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/reference/how-to-decline-personal-names/>

This site shows you the many endings in all the cases of personal names. One caveat—in the first declension genitive and dative this site gives the simplified ending –e where you would normally see ae or æ.

4- Latin Dictionary <https://www.online-latin-dictionary.com/>

This is a wonderful dictionary with many terms. Of particular importance is that it gives the various declensions of the items, including given names. This will help you understand the grammar.

5- Lewis & Short: Latin-English dictionary
Smith & Hall: English-Latin dictionary
Döderlein's Hand-book of Latin Synonymes
Horae Latinae: Studies in Synonyms and Syntax
<https://www.latinitium.com/smithhall?s>

This a very good set of dictionaries and other works that translate from English to Latin.

Other aides:

6- The Catholic Encyclopedia <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/>

This encyclopedia will give detailed explanations of many terms dealing with the Catholic church. To increase your understanding of cultural items, see this encyclopedia.

You will often encounter various abbreviations in your documents. The following two sites will give the expansion of the abbreviations, which means that you will still have to translate the terms to a language that you understand.

7- Wörterbuch lateinischer und deutscher Abkürzungen des späten Mittelalters und der Neuzeit

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/58434-redirection>

- 8- Dizionario di Abbreviature Latine ed Italiani This book appears on two websites. Try them both and see which you like more. The abbreviations and special symbols are arranged alphabetically. However, some symbols are not really letters, but they will be grouped with the letter that they most resemble. At the beginning of each letter of the alphabet there is a list of variant letters. Have a look at several letters to get an idea of how valuable this will be for you.

<https://archive.org/details/CappelliDizionarioDiAbbreviature>

http://hist.msu.ru/departments/8823/projects/Cappelli/index.php?sphrase_id=121340

- 9- Latin Language and Script: Gallery of Latin Abbreviations
http://sites.rootsweb.com/~chevaud/latin_abbrev.htm

This site gives a number of abbreviations and explains them in detail.

Part 1: Dictionaries, Word lists and other aides:

Activity 1

For this activity, find these words in the FamilySearch Latin Genealogical word list:
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List

Do a control F (or command f) search for these words and write all the different Latin words that you find for each English word.

Objectives of this activity:

- 1- You will become familiar with the FS Latin word list
- 2- You will learn how to search using the control F feature
- 3- You will learn many Latin vocabulary items

Death	mortuus, defunctus, obitus, denatus, decessus, peritus, mors, mortis, obiit, decessit
Godparents	
Marriage	
Mother	
Baptized	
Birth	
Child	
Witnesses	

Godmother	
Godfather	
Father	
Buried	
Wife	

Activity 2:

Objectives of this activity:

- 1- You will become familiar with the various word lists and dictionaries that you will need
- 2- You will learn many Latin vocabulary items

For this activity, look at the document and see if you can recognize any of the cognates. Can you more or less make out what is being said in this document?

Annus, mensis, dies.	Mors et sepultura.
1863. Mense Januario	Anno Domini millesimo octingentesimo sexagesimo tertio Die trigesima, hora sexta vespertina obiit aetate annorum unius infans Barbara, filia legitima Petri Hermann & Catharinae Kraemer, conjugum in Bettingen et post tres dies in coemeterio nostro hujate sepulta est. In fidem J. Garisch & Culmburg past.

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-S3QB-W?cc=27902684300-000201%2F1>

Now, use these sites to look up each of the following words. You will not find all of the words in any one site, but will have to use both of them.

FamilySearch Latin Genealogical Word List

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List

Latin Dictionary <https://www.online-latin-dictionary.com/>

sexagesima	
vespertina	
filia	
nostro	
hujate	

Part 2: Grammar: Cases

Latin is what we call a synthetic, as opposed to an analytical, language. This means that Latin has a tremendous number of word endings. How a noun or pronoun functions in a sentence is indicated by word endings, not by word order, as in English.

Case	Use
Nominative	This is the subject of the sentence I baptized the child.
Genitive	This is the 'owner' of an item. In English, we often indicate this with 's or <i>of</i> ... The child of Thomas and Mary (or Thomas' and Mary's child) was baptized)
Dative	This is the beneficiary of the action, i.e. the person for whom something is done For John and Mary I baptized the child.
Accusative	This is the receiver of the action I baptized the child.

Here are the most common endings for three of the five noun groups, which we call 'declensions.'

Case	1 st decl.	2 nd decl.	3 rd decl.
Nominative	Maria Matthias	Petrus	Joannes
Genitive	Mariae Matthiae	Petri	Joannis
Dative	Mariae Matthiae	Petro	Joanni
Accusative	Mariam Matthiam	Petrum	Joannem

Activity 3:

Objective of this activity:

- 1- You will become familiar with the use of cases in order to determine who is doing what to whom in the sentence.

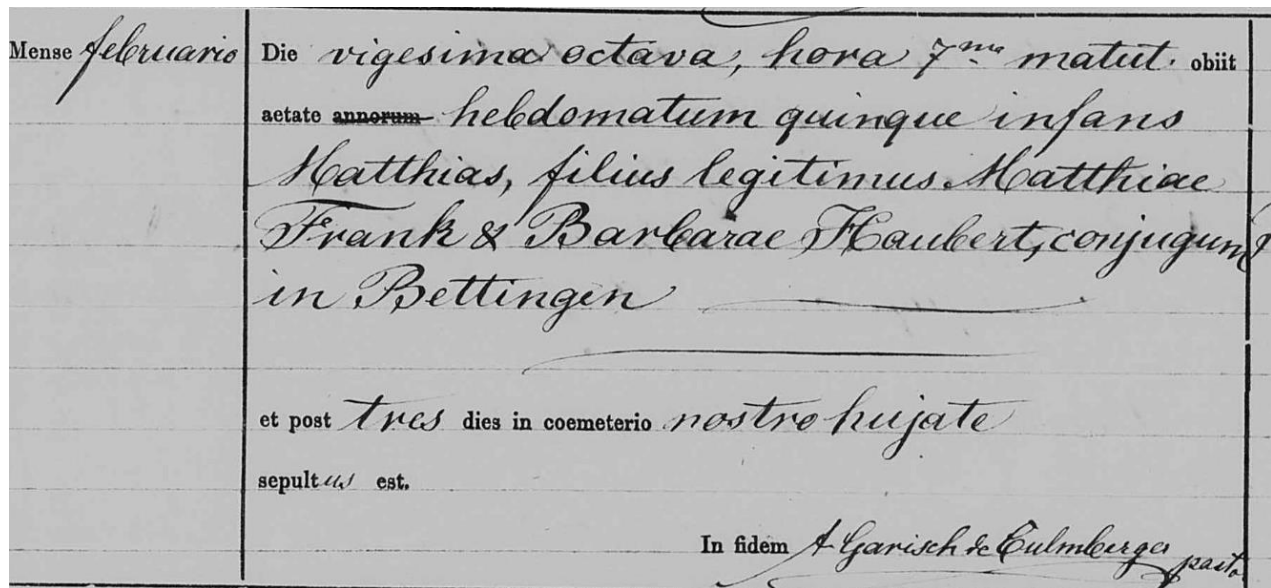
From these two documents, look up the first two names in the box below and tell the case and function in the sentence of each one. A few extra names that are not in the documents have been added as well. Do the same for them. You can use the chart above (recommended) or these two websites, but you should familiarize yourself with these sites:

How to decline personal names <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/reference/how-to-decline-personal-names/> One caveat—in the first declension genitive and dative this site gives the simplified ending –e where you would normally see ae or æ.

Latin Dictionary <https://www.online-latin-dictionary.com/>

Annus, mensis, dies.	Mors et sepultura.
1863. Mense Januario	Anno Domini millesimo octingentesimo sexagesimo tertio Die trigesima, hora sexta vespertina obiit aetate annorum unius infans Barbara, filia legitima Petri Hermann & Catharinae Kraemer, conjugum in Bettingen et post tres dies in coemeterio nostro hujate sepulta est. In fidem L. Garisch & Culmburg past.

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-S3QB-W?cc=27902684300-000201%2F1>



<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-S3QB-W?cc=2790268>

Name	Case
Example: Barbara	Nominative. Subject of the sentence. The person being baptized.
Petri	
Catharinae	
Joanni	
Matthiae	
Annam	

Activity 4 Translations and transcriptions:

For the following documents, use the skills that you have developed and resources that you have learned to translate and transcribe the following documents. The beginning document are easy to transcribe. Lines will be provided for your work.

When you transcribe or translate a document, you should stay true to the lines as they appear in the documents. This means that if there are seven lines in the original document, you should have seven lines in your transcription and, if possible, translation. If you are only extracting information, which you will often do, you do not need to stay true to the lines.

[illegible]

Document 2

Mense <i>April</i>	Die <i>trigesima</i> , hora <i>9^{na}</i> vespertina obiit aetate ann orum <i>unius mensium decem</i> infans <i>Petrus, filius legitimus Petri Bernar-</i> <i>Ding & Mariae Erbel, conjugum</i> <i>in Aussen;</i> et post <i>tres</i> dies in coemeterio <i>nostro hujate</i> sepultus est. In fidem <i>H. Garisch & Gubmberger</i> pastor
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<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-S3QY-1?i=121&cc=2790268>

Document 3

Annus, mensis, dies.	Infantes baptizati, parentes, levantes.
1891. Majus 31. a.	Anno Domini millesimo octingentesimo <i>nonagesimo primo</i> die <i>vigesima secunda</i> c.h.s.m. mensis <i>Maji</i> natus est et die <i>Trigesima prima</i> mensis <i>Maji</i> baptizatus est <i>Nicolaus Angel</i> filius legitimus <i>Petri Angel et Annae Mariae Spang</i> <i>conjugum in Aysen.</i> Levantes erant: <i>Nicolaus Trübe et Maria</i> <i>Spang ex Aysen.</i> In fidem: <i>J. Kase, par.</i>

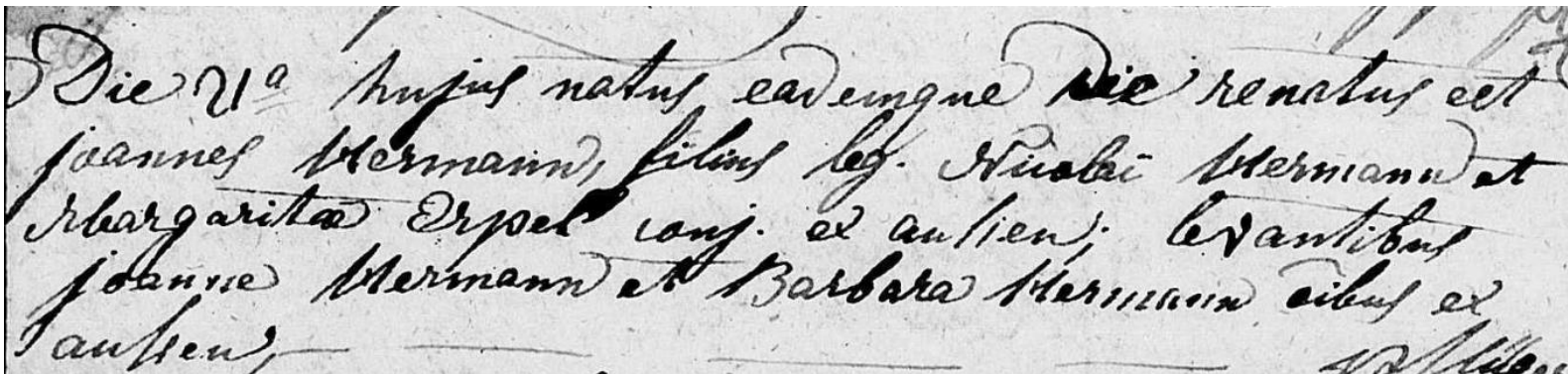
<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-S95M-3?i=274&cc=2790268>

[illegible]

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Document 4

NB! Look up *-que* in the Latin word list!



<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSTT-X968-9?i=249&cat=96811>

Document 5

Die 14^{te} Majus natus alteraque die renatus est Godfridus
Lohmuth filius leg. Godfridis Lohmuth et Annae
Guinter conj. et atheni. beatus Godfridus
Reiter et Anna Maria Lohmuth amobus et
Weiskirchen

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSTT-X968-9?i=249&cat=96811>

Document 6

Die Decimo tertio aprilis hora octava videretur
 +9
 Verbertina pie obiit in Bettingen fortunis Schneider
 aetatis quinquaginta quinque annorum uxor legitima
 Philippi Quinten ex Aussen et postea die Decimo
 quinto sepulta est in Bettingen
 Clemens pastor in Bettingen

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSTT-X9DW-J?i=169&cat=96811>

Document 7

Anno 1817 Die 21 aprilis hora sextima 10^{ma} post meridianam
natus et die sequenti baptizatus est joannis filius legitimus
joannis Kleinkeuer et Margrethae Lenthof conjugum
ex aucten. Servantes erant joannis et Annemaria
Lenthof ex Bettingen. Clemens

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSTT-X96J-2?i=221&cat=96811>

Document 8

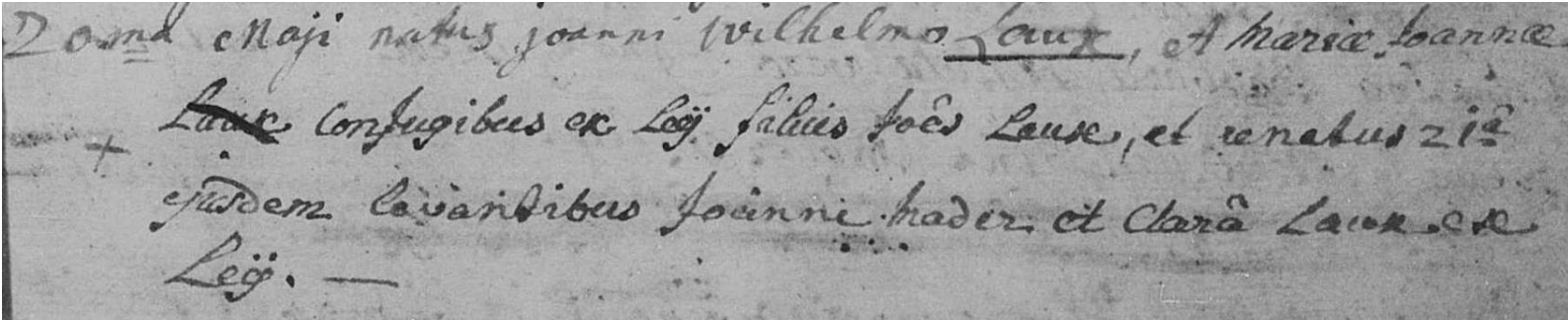
Before you translate the document, look at the numbers and letters in the right-hand column.
What do they mean; what is the date? Answer: Those are the date: 9th of September

Document 9

Tribus proclamationibus in ecclesia parochiali rite factis nullaque
 impedimento canonico detecto per Francescas Haarmann Schmitt,
 filiam legitimam Adami Schmitt et defunctae Gertrudis Wilhelmi,
 conjugum hujatum - et Annam Müller, filiae Jacobi Müller
 et Elisabethae Klein, conjugum similiter hujatum, Die 11^{ma} Junii
 1869 coram me et duobus testibus Jacobo Amtecke et Haarmann
 Ammann am habens in Liedorf habitantibus matrimonium
 in facie ecclesiae solemnizatum est
 ita testantur Officiarius parochus ~~pro~~
 sponsas: Josephine Vornio
 sponsa Kriemhild imperita signum manus suae X fecit.
 testes: Johann Eintruf Ammann

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-W9YQ-4?cc=27902684300-000201%2F1>

Document 10



<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSTY-73YH-9>

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Document 11

Objective of this activity:

- 1- You will become familiar with various works dedicated to Latin abbreviations.

To start this activity, read or skim this page well enough that you at least know generally what is there and can refer to it later when you need help. No one can remember all these things, but familiarity and knowing how to find information is valuable:

http://sites.rootsweb.com/~chevaud/latin_abbrev.htm

Before you start with Document 11, refer to document 4 and look at the abbreviation that is the second-to-last word in the last full line. What is it? _____ Look that up in the one of the following works. For document 11, you are given a document that includes a number of abbreviations. Use these tools to expand the abbreviations that are underlined in the text:

<https://archive.org/details/CappelliDizionarioDiAbbreviature>

http://hist.msu.ru/departments/8823/projects/Cappelli/index.php?sphrase_id=121340

Choose whichever version of this book you like better. Remember to look at the beginning of several letter sections to see variant letter forms. You will need that in order to figure out some of the letters. Also know that not every abbreviation can be listed in any work. There are simply too many. But if you can find something that is close or partial, you may have found the meaning that you are looking for.

If you need help reading the text, look at the URL. But still look up the abbreviations in the book.

Henriceta filia volenti dicti Journaul condam burgien morgue & Agnetie
filie condam mermeti de cubana nunc vpor petri foresteri fabri morgue &
Laude ante voluntate & expresse consensu dicti petri foresteri viri sui confutur
& in veritate recognoscit pro se & suis heredibus quibuscumque se tenere et
possidere ad censum perpetuum a prefatis domine priore & eius conventu
et possessiones infra scriptas sue et sacre in territorij de Tolent. Et primo
quartum vniuersi pose vinee loco dicto ee corp sue en marsellin mpo vinea
marguerite vporie mermeti f du four sorore dicit qsten a pte borz vinea
Johanne Richard a parte venti vinea dicit confitentie a pte vineae autboy
buaguardi & guillelmi Rement a lacu. Item loco dicto en pierobaz dimidia
posam vinee iuxta vinea sique nodi borrel de laz pra a pte borz vineam
marguerite sorore dicit confitentie a parte venti vineam modum gardiam
burgien morgue a iud et viam publica. a pte lacus sup qua petra vinee
percipit dimidiam decima. Item tenet medietatem pro indiviso cum
marguareta sorore sua predicta vniuersi morcelli vinee su ead tutorio

http://sites.rootsweb.com/~chevaud/latin_Fg6_8v.htm