

## Latin Greetings

**Salvē!**

Hello! (*singular - to one person*)

**Salvēte!**

Hello! (*plural - to more than one person*)

**Quid** (what) **est** (is) **nōmen** (name) **tibi** (to/for you)?

What is your name?

**Nōmen** (name) **mihi** (to/for me) **est** \_\_\_\_\_.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Quid** (what) **agis** (you do)?

How are you doing?

**Vāleō** (I'm fine), **grātiās** (thanks).

I'm fine, thanks.

**Quid** (what) **agis** (you do) **tū** (you)?

And how are *you* doing?

**Valē!**

Goodbye! (*singular*)

**Valēte!**

Goodbye! (*plural*)

## Handy Latin Phrases

**Quid est hoc?**

What is this?

**Quid est** \_\_\_\_\_?

What is \_\_\_\_\_?

**Quid** \_\_\_\_\_ **significat?**

What does \_\_\_\_\_ mean?

**Quōmodo** \_\_\_\_\_ **dīcitur?**

How do you say \_\_\_\_\_? (Literally: How is \_\_\_\_\_ said?)

**Scīs-ne?**

Do you know?

**Sciō.**

I know.

**Nesciō.**

I don't know.

**Grātiās tibi agō.**

Thank you.

## 100 Latin Phrases Frequently Encountered in English

1. **ad** (to) **absurdum** (the absurd)

Taking something to the extreme or to a ridiculous extent.

2. **ad** (to) **hoc** (this)

Refers to something improvised or intended for a specific, immediate purpose.

3. **ad** (to) **hominem** (person)

Arguments toward or against the person instead of the topic at hand.

4. **ad** (to) **īfīnitum** (infinity)

To or toward the infinite.

5. **ad** (to) **nauseam** (sickness)

To nausea; going on until one is sick of something.

6. **ad** (to) **valōrem** (value)

Taxes based on the assessed value of real estate or personal property.

7. **alma** (nourishing) **māter** (mother)

Term used to refer to a graduate's college or university.

8. **alter** (another) **ego** (I)

Another self.

9. **annō** (in year) **dōminī** (of the lord)

Annō Dominī Nostrī Iēsū Christī - In the year of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Abbreviated *A.D.*

10. **ante** (before) **bellum** (the war)

Commonly used to refer to the period before the U.S. Civil War.

11. **Avē** (hail), **Maria!**

Hail, Mary!

12. **Avē** (hail), **Caesar!**

Hail, Caesar!

13. **aurōra** (dawn) **borealis** (northern) The northern lights.
14. **aurōra** (dawn) **austrālis** (southern)
15. **carpe** (seize) **diem** (day) Seize the day ( Latin has no definite articles *a* or *the* ).
16. **ante** (before) **merīdiem** (midday) The time after noon. Abbreviated: *a.m.*
17. **post** (after) **merīdiem** (midday) The time after midnight. Abbreviated: *p.m.*
18. **bonā** (in good) **fidē** (faith) In good faith.
19. **carpe** (seize) **noctem** (night) Seize the night.
20. **casus** (cause) **bellī** (of war) Refers to an incident that is the justification or case for war.
21. **cave** (beware) **canem** (dog) Beware the dog.
22. **caveat** (let him beware) **emptor** (buyer) Buyer beware. The purchaser is responsible for checking whether the goods or services are suitable.
23. **cōgitō** (I think) **ergō** (therefore) **sum** (I am) From *Discourse on the Method*, by René Descartes, 1637.
24. **Corpus** (body) **Christī** (of Christ) Body of Christ.
25. **creātiō** (creation) **ex** (out of) **nihilō** (nothing) Creation out of nothing.
26. **cūī** (for whom) **bonō** (to the good)? To whose benefit?
27. **curriculum** (course) **vītae** (of life) An overview of a person's work and qualifications.
28. **dē** (by) **factō** (fact) This denotes something that exists in fact, whether legally recognized or not, such as *de facto* govt, marriage, or official practice. E.g.:
- Although his title was vice-president, he was *de facto* president of the country.
  - Mark has become the movement's *de facto* spokesperson.
29. **deus** (god) **ex** (from) **māchinā** (machine) A god from a machine. A contrived or artificial solution to a literary plot. Refers to the practice in Greek drama of using a crane (machine) to lower an actor playing a god or goddess onto the stage to resolve an insuperable conflict in the plot.
30. **Deō** (to God) **gratiās** (thanks) Thanks be to God.
31. **ē** (out of) **plūribus** (many) **ūnum** (one) Out of many, one. Motto of the United States.
32. **ecce** (behold) **homō** (man) Behold the man. Latin Vulgate, Gospel of John 19:5. Pontius Pilate speaks these words as he presents Christ, scourged and crowned with thorns, to the crowd before He is crucified.
33. **emeritus** (veteran) Retired from office. Often used to denote a position held at the point of retirement, as an honor, such as professor emeritus or provost emeritus.
34. **errāre** (to err) **hūmānum** (human) **est** (is) To err is human.
35. **et** (and) **aliī** (others) Used to denote a list of authors mentioned elsewhere. Abbreviated *et al.*
36. **et** (and) **cētera** (remaining things) And the rest, and the other things, and so on, *etc.* The ampersand (&) originally stood for *et*. Older texts often have *&c.* instead of *etc.*
37. **et** (too) **tū** (you), **Brūte** (Brutus)? You, too, Brutus? Spoken by Caesar in Shakespeare's play, Julius Caesar.

38. **ex** (from) **librīs** (books) From the library of \_\_\_\_\_. Bookplate in books of a personal library.
39. **exemplī** (of an example) **grātiā** (by grace, favor) - For the sake of an example, for example. Abbreviated *e.g.*
40. **id** (that) **est** (is) That is, that is to say, meaning. Abbreviated *i.e.*
41. **fac** (make) **simile** (similar thing) Make a similar thing.
42. Thank you.
43. **habeās** (you should have) **corpus** (body) You should have the body [brought to court]. The general term for a prisoner's legal right to challenge the legality of their detention.
44. **in** (in) **locō** (place) **parentis** (of parent) In place of a parent. Assuming custodial responsibility and authority, e.g. school teachers over students.
45. **in** (in) **principium** (beginning) In the beginning. (Latin Vulgate, Genesis 1:1)
46. **in** (in) **sitū** (position) In the original, natural, or appropriate position or arrangement.
47. **in** (in) **tōtō** (all) In all, totally, entirely, completely.
48. **in** (in) **vīnō** (wine) **vēritās** (truth) In wine there is truth. Alcohol loosens inhibitions and the tongue.
49. **lupus** (wolf) **in** (in) **fābulā** (story) The wolf in the story. The villain, foil, or antagonist.
50. **Magna** (great) **Charta** (charter) Set of documents from 1215 between Pope Innocent III, King John of England, and English barons.
51. **magnum** (great) **opus** (work) A craftsman's great work; a masterpiece.
52. **meā** (by my) **culpā** (fault) My fault, I am to blame.
53. **mīrābile** (wondrous) **dictū** (in saying) Wonderful to relate, marvelous in the telling.
54. **momentō** (remember) **morī** (to die) Remember that you have to die.
55. **notā** (note) **bene** (well) Used to alert the reader to some additional, important information.
56. **Opus** (work) **Deī** (of God) Work of God. A Catholic organization.
57. **pater** (father) **familiās** (of the family) The head of the family. The paterfamilias was the oldest living male in a household, and exercised autocratic authority over his extended family.
58. **per** (by) **annum** (year) By year, each year, yearly.
59. **per** (by) **capita** (heads) Per head, per person, a ratio by the number of persons.
60. **per** (by) **diem** (day) By the day, per day.
61. **per** (by) **sē** (itself) By itself. E.g.: Thinking about crime does not make you a criminal *per se*.
62. **ipsō** (itself) **factō** (by fact) Through the fact itself. E.g.:

- A failing exam score does not *ipso facto* mean you are dumb.
- If you don't feed your pets you are *ipso facto* a bad owner.

Nota bene: *Per se* and *ipso facto* are very similar. *Per se* denotes agency and refers to the action, whereas *ipso facto* refers to the fact, or rather, the existence of

63. **persōna** (character) **nōn** (not) **grāta** (pleasing) the fact.  
An unwelcome person.
64. **prō** (for) **bonō** (good) **pūblicō** (public) For the public good, on behalf of the people or state. Usually abbreviated to *pro bono*.
65. **prō** (for) **ratā** (reckoned) According to a certain part, i.e., in proportion, proportionally.
66. **quid** (what) **agis** (are you doing)? What's up? What's going on? What's new?, &c.
67. **quid** (what) **est** (is) **vērītās** (truth)? What is (the) truth?
68. **quid** (what) **prō** (for) **quō** (what) Something for something, tit for tat, give and take, a favor for a favor, etc.
69. **quid** (what) **nunc** (now) What now? A busybody is a *quidnunc*. Patrick Campbell worked for The Irish Times under this pseudonym.
70. **sīc** (thus, so) Thus or just so, signifying that the original word(s) here are reproduced exactly.
71. **sīc** (thus) **semper** (always) **tyrannīs** (to tyrants) Thus always to tyrants.
72. **semper** (always) **fidēlis** (faithful) Motto of the United States Marine Corp.
73. **status** (situation) **quō** (in which) The current condition or situation.
74. **status quō ante bellum** The situation or circumstances existing before the war. A term in peace treaties.
75. **sub** (under) **poena** (penalty) Said of a request, usually by a court, that must be complied with on pain of punishment. Usually written as one word.
76. **sub** (under) **rosā** (rose) Under the rose. In secret, privately, confidentially, or covertly. In the Middle Ages, a rose was suspended from the ceiling of a council chamber to indicate that what was said in the "under the rose" was not to be repeated outside. This practice originates in Greek mythology, where Aphrodite gave a rose to her son Eros, and he, in turn, gave it to Harpocrates, the god of silence, to ensure that his mother's indiscretions — or those of the gods in general, in other accounts — were kept under wraps.
77. **summā** (highest) **cum** (with) **laudē** (praise) With the highest honor, distinction, praise, &c.
78. **magnā** (great) **cum** (with) **laudē** (praise) With great honor, distinction, praise, &c.
79. **cum laudē** With honor, distinction, praise, &c.
80. **tabula** (slate) **rāsa** (smoothed) A blank slate, a fresh start, a new beginning, an empty mind ready to be taught.
81. **terra** (land) **firma** (firm) Solid ground, earth.
82. **vēnī** (I came), **vīdī** (I saw), **vīcī** (I conquered) Popularly attributed to Julius Caesar who, according to Appian, used the phrase in a letter to the Roman Senate around 47 BC after he had achieved a quick victory in his short war against Pharnaces II of Pontus at the Battle of Zela. The phrase is used to refer to a swift, conclusive victory.
83. **verbatim** Literally, word for word.
84. **vice** (with place) **versā** (reversed) With the situation reversed, with the order reversed. E.g., Fish can't live where we are most comfortable, and *vice versa*.

85. **versus** Turned in the direction of, facing. Abbr. *vs.* or *v.*
86. **vōx** (voice) **populī** (people) The voice of the people or nation.
87. **magna** (great) **vōx** (voice) A great or loud voice. The name of the Magnavox corporation.
88. **compos** (having control) **mentis** (of mind) Someone of sound mind. An insane person is *nōn compos mentis*.
89. **a** (from) **priōrī** (the former) Presupposed knowledge or knowledge independent of experience; deductive.
90. **a** (from) **posteriōrī** (the latter) Things known based on reasoning and observed facts; inductive.
91. **quasī** (as if, as though) Quasimodo (*quasi modo*, "as if only") is the main character of *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*, 1831, by Victor Hugo. His name was taken from Quasimodo Sunday, the Sunday following Easter, because he was found on that day.
92. **videlicet** - **vidēre** (to see) **licet** (it is permitted) Namely, that is to say, as follows. Abbr: *viz.*
93. **in** (in) **vitrō** (glass) An experimental or process methodology performed in a "non-natural" setting (e.g. in a laboratory using a glass test tube or Petri dish), and thus outside of a living organism or cell.
94. **in** (on) **vīvō** (living) An experiment performed on a living specimen.
95. **ex** (out of) **vīvō** (living) The study or living tissue in an artificial environment outside the living organism.
96. **in** (in) **vacuō** (vacuum) In a vacuum, isolated from other things.
97. **in** (in,on) **vīvō** (living) **vēritās** (truth) A biologist's pun which means *in vitro* tests may not yield the same results when tested on organisms *in vivo*.
98. **mēns** (mind) **rea** (culprit, defendant) Guilty mind.
99. **ibidem** (in the same place) Used in bibliographic citations to refer to the last source previously referenced. Abbreviation: *ibid.*
100. **idem** (the same) Used to refer to something that has already been cited. Abbr: *id.*
101. **Avē, Caesar!**  
**Moritūri** (those about to die) **tē** (you) **salūtant** (salute)!