



You Know More Latin Than You Think

By the History Nook

English has many words with Latin roots. In some cases, these have been adopted into the language purposefully for scientific names. This list includes words that were more naturally adopted into English through French, Spanish, Italian, Late Latin, and other sources, and some that were created within English (such as scientific terms). Sometimes the English word is derived from only one form of the Latin word, but to keep this list manageable, I have only included the dictionary form for each Latin word. This is by no means a complete list, but it will be updated as I discover more words.

Many Latin words have multiple or complex definitions that don't map perfectly onto English, but I have provided a basic meaning for the Latin words whose definitions differ from the English form we know today.

— A —

Abduct	abduco - to lead away
Ablution	ablutio - washing
	ab - away
	luere - to wash, atone
Accelerate	celer - quick
Accept	accipio - I accept
Accident	accidens - a chance occurrence
Accurate	acuo - to sharpen
Addition, add	addo - I add, insert, bring
Admiration, admire	admiratio
Admittance	admitto - I admit, let in
Adolescent	adulescens
Adversary	adversus - against
Affirm	affirmo - I affirm, declare
Agriculture	ager (agri) - field, territory, land
Amiable	amicus - friend
Alias	alias - at another time, otherwise
Alternative	alter - the other, second, another



Altitude	altus - high, deep
Ambulance	ambulo - to walk
Amicable, amicability	amicus - friend
Amorous	amo - I love
Animated, animal	animus - spirit
Announce, announcement	nuntius - messenger nuntio - I announce
Antique	antiquus
Annual	annus - year
Annunciate	nuntius - messenger nuntio - I announce
Aperture	apertus - open
Apparatus	ad-, to + parare, prepare, make ready
Aqua	aqua - water
Ardent	ardens - burning
Arms (weapons), army	arma - weapons
Asylum	asylum
Atrocity	atrox - harsh, fierce
Audio	audio - to hear
Audacious	audacia - bold, daring, brave
Avid	avidus - eager, greedy
Axillary	auxilium - help

— B —

Bellicose	bellum - war
Beneficial	bene - good facere - to make
Brief	brevis
Bonus	bonus - good

— C —

Callous	callosus - hard-skinned
Callus	callus - firm flesh
Campus	campus - plain, field
Capitol	caput - head



Capitulate	capitulare - head/poll-tax or levy
Captive	captivus
Casualty	casus - misfortune
Castle	castellum - fort
Cavern, cave	caverna
Celebrate	celebro - to celebrate
Cellar	cella - storeroom, chamber
Chant, chanting	cantare - to sing
Circumference	circum - round, around
Clamour	clamor - shout
Closed	clausus
Cognate	cognatus - similar, related
Commitment	committo - I join, commit
Complex	complexus - embrace, encircling, woven together
Concurrent	concurro - run together
Conscribe, conscription	conscribo - I recruit, enrol
Conservation	cōnservo - I keep
Conciliate	conciliō - I win over, reconcile
Constitution	constantia - persistence
Contradiction	contra - against
	dico - I speak
Controversy	controversia - dispute, argument
Copious	copiae - affluence
Corporeal	corpus - body
Corpse	corpus - body
Course	cursus
Curate	cūrō - I look after, attend to
Custodian, custody	custos - Guard

— D —

Defend	defendo - I defend
Defenestrate	de- - down from
	fenestra - window
Deity	dea - goddess
	deus - god



Delete
Demonstrate
Dense
Dentist
Descend
Desire
Despair
Detain
Dictate, dictation
Dictator
Difficult
Dignity
Dismiss
Diversion
Divine, divinity
Domesticate
Domination, dominium
Donation
Dormant
Durable
Duration

deleo - I destroy
monstro - I point out, show
densus - thick
dens - tooth
descendo - I descend, go down
desidero - I desire, long for
desperatio
detineo - I detain, hold back
dico - I say, speak, tell
dictator
difficilis
dignitas
dimitto - I send away, dismiss
deverto - I turn off, find lodgings
divinus
domus - house
dominus - master
donum - gift
dormio - I sleep
durus - hard, uncompromising
durare - to harden, to last

— E —

Ediface
Ego
Enchantment
Error
Evade
Excited
Exercise
Exit
Expect
Expell
Explorer
Extend
Extinguish

aedificium - building
ego - I
incantare - to bewitch
erro - I am mistaken
evado - I escape
excito - I arouse, wake up
exercitus - army, military exercises
exitus
exspecto - I wait
expello - I banish, eject
explorator - scout, spy
extendo - I stretch out
exstinguo - I put out, extinguish



Extra

extra - outside, beyond

— F —

Fable

fabula

Facility

facilis - easy

Fact

factum - deed, act

Factory

facio - I do, make

Famine, famished

famas - hunger

Feminine

femina - woman

Fidelity, fealty

fidus - oath, faith

Flammable

flamma - flame

Fortitude

fortitudo - bravery

Fraternal

frater - brother

Fortified

fortis - strong, brave

Fracture

fractus

Frustrated

frustra - In vain

Fugitive

fugio - I flee, run away

— G —

Gaudy

gaudium - joy

Gigantic

giga - (a) giant

Gravitas

gravis - serious, weighty

— H —

Habitat

habito - I dwell, live

Human, humane

humanus - kind

Honour

honestas

Hospital, hotel, hostel, hospice

hospes (hospitis) - friend, guest, host

Hostile

hostis - enemy

Hour

hora

— I —



Ignite
Ignorant

ignis - fire
ignoro - I do not recognise, do not know

Imbibe
Immortal
Immobile
Imperial, empire, emperor
Impossible

bibo - I drink
immortalis
immotus - motionless
imperium - power, supremacy
possum - I am able

In
Incantation
Incognito
Induced, induction
Insane
Insidious
Intelligence
Interval
Introspective

in - in, on
incantare - to bewitch
incognitus - unknown
inductus - having been led
insanus - crazy
insidiae - an ambush
intellego - I understand, realise
intervallum - gap (between)
intra - inside, within
specto - I watch
invado - I invade
invenio - I discover
vestigium - track, footstep, footprint
ira - anger
irritatus - to excite

Invade
Invent
Investigate
Ire
Irritated

— J —

Joker
Justice

iocor - I joke
iustitia

— K —

— L —

Labour
Lactose, lactate
Liberty

labor - work
lac - milk, juice of a plant
libertas - freedom



Library
Lament
Long
Lubrication

liber - book
lamentor - to lament, complain
longus
lubricus - slippery

— M —

Manacle
Mandate
Malice, malicious
Maternal
Matrimony

manus - hand
mandatum
malus - bad, ugly, evil
mater - mother
matrona - married woman

You may be wondering where 'me' is, considering the Latin word for 'me' is 'me'. Linguists have agreed that 'me' came into English via the Germanic language family. The English and Latin 'me' do share the same root in PIE word *me-

Member
Menstrual
Military
Minor, minority
Minute (small thing)
Minute (time)
Miracle

membrum - limb
mensis - month
miles - soldier
minor - smaller
minuere - to make small
minuta - a small thing
mirus - wonderful, astonishing, strange
miraculum - Miracle

Misery
Mountain
Mortuary, morbid
Move
Multitudes
Mural

miser
mons
mort - death
moveo - I move
multitudo - crowd
murus - wall

— N —

Narration
Nasal
Nautical

narro - I tell, narrate
nasus
nauticus



Naval, navy	navis - ship
Necessary	necesse - necessary
Nepotism	nepos - grandson
Nihilism, nihilistic	nihil - nothing
Nocturnal	nox, noctis - night
Noble	nobilis - aristocrat, well-known person
Noon	nona - nine

In Rome, 'noon' meant the ninth hour of the day, which for the Romans who started their day at dawn (or 6 am) would have been 3 pm)

Novice	novus - new
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Words relating to 'new' that begin with ne- are Germanic words, whereas those that start with no- are Latin

Nude	nudus
Null	nulus - none, not any

— O —

Obsess, obsessed	obses - hostage obsideo - to besiege
Occasion	occasio - opportunity
Odious	odium
Optimum	optimus - very good, excellent

— P —

Pacify	pax - peace
Parent	parens
Pastor (clergy)	pastor - shepherd
Paternal	pater - father
Pauper	pauper - poor
Penultimate	paenultimus - almost last paene - almost ultimus - last
Peril	periculum - danger
Perish	pereo - I die, perish
Permutation	permuto - exchange, swap
Persuade	persuadeo - I persuade



Perturbed

perturbatus - confused, disturbed

Plural

pluralis

Portable

porto - I carry

Portal

porta - gate

Possible

possum - I am able

Prepare

praeparare - make ready beforehand

paro - I prepare

Primal, prime

primus - first

Proceed

procedo - I advance

Prodigy

prodigium - portent, omen, marvel

Prohibit

prohibeo - I prevent

Promise

promissum

Proximity

proximus - next

Public

publicus - public, official

Pugnacious

pugna - battle, fight

— Q —

Quasi

quasi - as, as if she were

Quiet

quies - rest

— R —

Rapid

rapidus

Recede

recedo - I retire, depart

Recuperate

recupero - I recover

Reduction

reductio - I bring back

Regal

regina - queen

rex, regis - king

Relic

reliquus - rest of, remaining, surviving

Religion, religious

religio

Relinquish

relinquo - I leave behind

Remission

remitto - I send back

Remove

removeo - I move away, remove,
withdraw

Repel

repello - I repel

Response

responsum



Respondeo - I reply

— S —

Sacrifice	sacrifico - I offer, perform a sacrifice
Salute	saluto - I greet, welcome
Sanguine	sanguis - blood
Scribe	scriba - clerk
	scribere - to write
Second	secundus
Sedentary	sedes - seat
Senator	senex - old man
Sense	sentio - I feel, notice, perceive
Servitude, service	servus - slave
Signal	signum - military standard, sign, signal
Silence	silentium
Similar	similis
Situated	situs
Society	socius - ally, friend
Solitude	solus - alone
Space	spatium - expanse, interval
Spectacle	spectaculum
Spectate	specto - I watch
Stable	stabilis
Statue	statua
Stipend	stipendium - pay
Summit	summum
Supplication	supplicium - punishment

— T —

Tangible	tangere - to touch
Tempest	tempestas - storm
Temple	templum - temple
Temporal	tempus - time
Temptation	tempto - I test, try



Terror
Timid
Total
Trade
Transcend
Transfer
Transit
Tribunal
Tumultuous

terreo - I frighten
timeo - I fear
totus - whole
trado - I hand over
transcendo - I cross, climb over
transfero - I transfer
transeo - I go over
tribunal - platform
tumultus - uproar

— U —

Ubiquitous
Ululation
Umbra
Urban
Utility

ubique - everywhere
Ululo - I howl
umbra
urbs - city
utilis - useful

— V —

Vehemently
Vendor
Venom
Ventriloquist

vehementer
vendo - I sell
venenum - poison
venter - stomach
loquor - to speak, say, utter, tell
verbum - word

Verb

[World also sounds like it should come from 'verb', but it has Germanic roots.](#)

Vestigial
Vestments
Veto
Via
Vicinity
Victory
Video
Virile
Virtue

vestigium - track, footstep, footprint
vestimenta
veto - I forbid
via - the way, road, path
vīcus - village
victoria
video - I see
vir, viri - man, husband
virtus - courage, virtue

Vivacious
Volition
Vulnerable

vivus - alive, living
volo - I wish
vulnus - wound



— W —

— X —

— Y —

— Z —