

## PART I.

### SOUNDS, QUANTITY, ACCENT.

#### LESSON I.

##### 1. ALPHABET.

The Latin Alphabet is the same as the English except that the Latin has no *w*.

##### 2. SOUNDS CLASSIFIED.

The Vowels are *a, e, i, o, u*. The other letters are Consonants. The Diphthongs are *ae, oe, au, eu, ui*.

##### 3. PRONUNCIATION.<sup>1</sup>

###### a) Vowels.

<i>ā</i> <sup>2</sup> as in <i>father</i> ;	<i>ǣ</i> as in the first syllable of <i>ahd</i> ;
<i>ē</i> as in <i>they</i> ;	<i>ĕ</i> as in <i>met</i> ;
<i>ī</i> as in <i>machine</i> ;	<i>ī</i> as in <i>pin</i> ;
<i>ō</i> as in <i>note</i> ;	<i>ō</i> as in <i>obey, melody</i> ;
<i>ū</i> as in <i>rude</i> ;	<i>ū</i> as in <i>put</i> .

###### b) Diphthongs.

<i>ae</i> like <i>ai</i> in <i>aisle</i> ;	<i>eu</i> with its two elements, <i>e</i> and <i>u</i> , pronounced in rapid succession;
<i>oe</i> like <i>oi</i> in <i>oil</i> ;	<i>ui</i> occurs mainly in <i>cui</i> and <i>huic</i> . These may be pronounced as though spelled <i>kwee</i> and <i>wheek</i> .
<i>au</i> like <i>ow</i> in <i>how</i> ;	

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<sup>1</sup> The system of pronunciation here given is that employed by the ancient Romans themselves. It is often called the 'Roman method.'

<sup>2</sup> Vowels which are long in quantity have a horizontal line above them, as *ā, ī, ō, etc.* Short vowels either have the curved mark (*ǣ, ĕ*), or are left unmarked.

c) **Consonants.**

**b, d, f, h, k, l, m, n, p, qu, r, x, z**, are pronounced as in English except that *bs, bt* are pronounced *ps, pt*.

**c** is always pronounced as *k*.

**t** is always pronounced as plain *t*, never with the sound of *sh*, as in Eng. *oration*.

**g** always as in *get*; when *ngu* precedes a vowel, **gu** has the sound of *gw*, as in *anguis, languidus*.

**j**<sup>1</sup> has the sound of *y* as in *yet*.

**s** always as in *sin, gas*; in *suādeō, suāvis, suēscō*, and in compounds and derivatives of these words, **su** has the sound of *sw*.

**v** like *w*.

**ph, ch, th**, are to be pronounced practically like our simple *p, k, t*.

Doubled letters like **ll, mm, tt**, etc., should be pronounced with an endeavor to articulate both members of the combination distinctly.

## 4.

## QUANTITY.

## A. Quantity of Vowels.

A vowel is long or short according to *the length of time* consumed in its pronunciation. As will be seen by comparing the sounds given in § 3, the long sounds take considerably more time to pronounce than the short ones. For example, the *i* of *machine* takes more time than the *i* of *pin*. No absolute rule can be given for determining the quantity of Latin vowels. The pupil can become familiar with them only by observing the quantity as marked in the paradigms, the vocabularies, and the exercises. Yet the following principles are of aid: —

1. *A vowel is long, —*

a) before **nf, ns**, as **īnfāns, cōnsēnsus**.

b) when the result of contraction; as **nīlum** for **nihilum**.

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<sup>1</sup> Some books print *i* instead of *j*.

2. A vowel is short,—

- a) before **nt, nd**; as **amant, amandus**. A few exceptions occur in cases of compounds whose first member has a long vowel; as **nōndum** (for **nōn dum**).
- b) before another vowel or **h**<sup>1</sup>; as **meus, trahō**.

N.B.—Long vowels should always be pronounced long (that is the only thing that 'long' means); short vowels should be pronounced short.

### B. Quantity of Syllables.

A syllable is long or short according to *the length of time* it takes to pronounce such syllable.

1. A syllable is long (that is, it takes a long time to pronounce it),—

- a) if it contains a long vowel; as **māter, rēgnum**.<sup>2</sup>
- b) if it contains a diphthong; as **causae, foedus**.<sup>2</sup>
- c) if it contains a short vowel followed by **x, z**, or any two consonants (except a mute followed by **l** or **r**)<sup>3</sup>; as **axis, restat, gaza, amantis**.<sup>4</sup>

2. A syllable is regularly short if it contains a short vowel followed by a vowel, by a single consonant, or by a mute with **l** or **r**; as **mea, amat, patris, volucris**.<sup>5</sup>

### 5.

### ACCENT.

1. There are as many syllables in a Latin word as there are separate vowels and diphthongs.

2. Words of two syllables are accented upon the first; as **tēgit, mōrem**.

3. Words of more than two syllables are accented upon the penult (next to the last) if that is a long syllable, otherwise upon the antepenult (second from the last); as **amāvī, minīster, mīserum**.

<sup>1</sup> **h** was pronounced so lightly as to be entirely disregarded, whether singly or in combination.

<sup>2</sup> Such syllables are sometimes said to be long by nature.

<sup>3</sup> The mutes are **p, c, t**; **b, d, g**.

<sup>4</sup> Such syllables are sometimes said to be long by position.

<sup>5</sup> Such syllables are sometimes said to be short by position.

## 6.

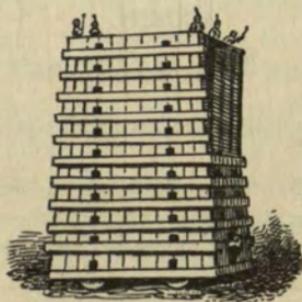
## EXERCISE.

Pronounce the following words, observing carefully the proper sound of each letter, and placing the accent upon the proper syllable. Remember to pronounce all long vowels long, all short vowels short.<sup>1</sup>

1. Majōrum, amīcus, Eratosthenēs.
2. Queō, nāscor, poscō.
3. Juvenis, porrētūra, abiimus.
4. Amīcītia, obtineō, antīquus.
5. Neuter, Chēruscī, exemplum.
6. Aggerō, exīguitās, sanguis.
7. Ubiī, mittō, nātiōnēs.
8. Foedus, dignitās, cōnsēsus.
9. Pervenit, efferre, īstituerat.
10. Arguō, cui, phalanx.
11. Percussus, rēxī, pereō.
12. Jam, suāvītās, cōnsuēscō.
13. Concēdō, cōfirmārī, referō.
14. Īnerō, pergredī, persuādet.

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<sup>1</sup> In the division of syllables, the first consonant in a group of two or more is regularly joined with the *preceding* vowel; as, **as-cen-dō**, **spec-tā-tus**, **mi-nis-trō-rum**. But a single consonant or a mute with l or r (pl, bl; pr, tr, etc.) is regularly joined to the *following* vowel; as, **vo-lu-cris**, **mī-se-rat**.



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