



LINGUA LATINA OCCASIONIBUS OMNIBUS

HENRICUS BARBATUS

SCRIPSIT

LIBRI VILLARD-LIKE NOVI EBOR ACI

A.u.c. MMDCCXLIV

LATIN FOR ALL OCCASIONS

BY HENRY BEARD

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Was I speaking Latin again?

Denuone Latine loquebar?

Silly me. Sometimes it just sort of slips out.

Me ineptum. Interdum modo elabitur.

PREFACE

Praefatio

You know the feeling all too well. There you are,

chatting with business associates at an upscale watering hole, or participating in a little good-natured give-and-take during a golf or tennis match, or relaxing with friends on the beach, or maybe just reviewing the day with your family at the supper table. You spot a chance to liven up the discussion with a particularly pithy observation in Latin, and then, all of a sudden, you're assailed by paralyzing doubts.

Is the verb you were going to use in the second or third conjugation? Is it irregular? Deponent? Reflexive? Defective? Does it take *ut* and a subjunctive or an infinitive with an accusative? Or, worse still, does it take the dative? Would a gerundive construction be more appropriate, or laughably awkward? How about a passive periphrastic or-but no, it's too late. The moment has passed, the conversation has moved on.

Now be honest-how many times has that happened to you? If your answer is *saepius* (too often)-and we bet it is! -then *Lingua Latin Occasionibus Omnibus* (**Latin for All Occasions**) is the book for you.

Here, in one handy, easy-to-use volume, are hundreds of everyday English expressions rendered into grammatically accurate,

idiomatically correct classical Latin, just as you would have translated them yourself if you had the time. And all of these practical phrases are conveniently organized into familiar conversational categories so that you can be confident that in any social situation some suitable Latin *bona dicta* (*bon mots*) will be right at your fingertips, just the way they would be if you could only get in a little practice.

The next time you feel like using the immortal language of Caesar, Cicero, Virgil, and Horace to turn an ordinary remark into a timeless utterance, don't let *feles*, *felis*, *feli*, *felem*, *fele* (the cat) get your tongue. With a copy of *Lingua Latina Occasionibus Omnibus* (**Latin for All Occasions**) in your toga, you'll never again be intimidated by those seven hundred verb endings, ninety noun cases, and twenty kinds of ablative. And you'll quickly discover that whether you want to impress the boss, entertain your friends, keep the kids in line, or charm that special someone, speaking Latin is as easy as taking Gaul from the Gauls!

Bona fortuna!
(Good luck!)

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INTRODUCTION: A BRIEF GUIDE TO LATIN PRONUNCIATION

If it's been a few years since you last conversed in Latin regularly, your pronunciation may have gotten a bit rusty, so we've included here a short summary of the basics of the spoken language just to help you brush up a little.

A word of caution: This is a simplified system of pronunciation for colloquial Latin based in part on modern Italian, the direct vernacular descendant of the everyday speech of ancient Rome.

If you're planning to give a formal oration or a reading from one of the great works of classical literature, you're obviously going to want to consult the standard scholarly reference books for the proper literary pronunciation.

I Vowels and a Few Diphthongs

Sure, I speak a little Latin.

Sane, paululum linguae Latinae dico.

SAH'-NAY, pow-Loo'-luhm LEEN'-GWYE Lah-Tee'-nye DEE'-KOH.

A is pronounced "ah" as in "father."

E is pronounced "ay" as in "they," but the very common words *et* (and), *est* (is), and *sed* (b) should be pronounced like "bet," "best," and "said," and the very common word ending *em* should be pronounced like "stem."

I is pronounced "ee" as in "Vaseline," but the very common words *id* (x) and *in* (in, on) should be pronounced like "did" and "din."

O is pronounced "oh" as in "go."

U is pronounced "oo" as in "crude," but the very common word endings *-us* and *-urn* should be pronounced like "puss" and "room" (with the "oo")

sound of "cookbook"), and the very common word *ut* (how, so that) should be pronounced like "put."

AE is a diphthong (a pair of vowels joined together to form a single sound) pronounced "eye."

AU is a diphthong pronounced "ow," as in "luau."

OE is a diphthong pronounced "oy."

II Consonants

I picked it up here and there. Really, Latin isn't all that hard.

Id legi modo hic modo illic. Vero,
Latine loqui non est difficilissimum.

IDD LAY'-GEE MOH'-DOH

HEEK MOH'-DOH EEL'-LEEK.

WAY'-ROH, Lah-Tee'-nay

LOH'-KWEE NOHN EHSST

dee-fee-kee-Leese'-see-muhm.

B, D, F, H, K, L, M, N,

P, and **Z** all sound the same as they do in English.

C always has a K sound as in "car."

CH always has a K sound as in "chorus."

G always has a hard G sound as in "get."

GU is pronounced "Gw" when it comes after an "n," as it is in English.

I is a consonant pronounced like y when it is the first letter in a word and it is followed by a vowel. The common Latin word *iam* (now) is pronounced "YAHM."

QU is pronounced "Kw," as it is in English.

R can be rolled in a sort of Scottish burr.

S always has a hissing sound as in "moose" or "soda," and some very common word endings sound like this: *as* equals "demi-tasse"; *-es* equals "ace", *-is* equals "geese"; *-os* equals "verbose"; and *-us* equals "wuss."

T always has a hard T sound as in "tar." In Latin, the word "ratio" is pronounced "RAH'-TEE-OH."

V is always pronounced as if it were a "W."

What Caesar (Kye'-sahr) said after he defeated somebody or other (*veni, vidi, vici*) sounded as if he had just conquered Hawaii: WAY'-NEE, WEE'-DEE, WEE'-KEE.*

X is always pronounced "Ks."

J, W, and Y don't exist in Latin.

III Syllables

It looks like a tricky language, but you'll get the hang of it pretty quickly. *Lingua speciem involutam praebet, sed sat cito eam comprehendes.*

LEEN'-GWAH SPAY'-KEE-EHM inn-woh-Loo'-tahm PRYE'-BAYT, SEDD SAHT KEE'-TOH AY'-

AHM kohm-pray-Hayn'-dace.

Latin words are divided into syllables in the same way that English words are, but in Latin every vowel or diphthong is a syllable, and every syllable is pronounced separately. If there are two vowels together, and they are not AE, AU, or OE, both vowels are pronounced individually. So, for example, *praebat* equals "PRYE'-BAHT" (ae is a diphthong); *speciem* equals "SPAY'-KEE-EHM"; and *eam* equals "AY'-AHM."

* If you took Latin in a parochial school, you were probably taught to pronounce the letter V like the English "V," the diphthong "ae" like "sundae", and Caesar like "CHAY'-SAHR." If you do this, you are going to take some flak from Latin purists, classics snobs, and other assorted lingo bores, but on the other hand, you're going to get a much better table in the Vatican restaurant.

IV Stress

And remember, there aren't any Romans around to correct your pronunciation. *Atque memento, nulli adsunt Romanorum qui locutionem tuam corrigant.* AHT'-KWAY may-Mayn'-toh, NOO'-LEE AHD'-SOONT Roh-mah-Noh'-ruhm KWEE loh-

koo-tee-Oh'-nehm TOO'-AHM KOH'-REE-GAHNT.

If a word has two syllables, put the stress on the first one. If it has more than two, put the stress on the second-to-last syllable unless both the second-to-last syllable and the last syllable are vowels. When that happens, shift the stress back one syllable earlier.

So, for example, *locutionem* equals "loh-koo-tee-Oh'-nehm," but *kv cutio* equals "loh-Koo'-tee-oh."

If the second-to-last syllable has an i in it and doesn't end in a consonant, the stress is usually moved back one syllable. So, for example, *corrigant* equals "KOHR'-REE-GAHNT" and *dificilissimum* equals "dee-fee-kee-Leese'-ee-muhm."

For the same reason, the very common word *aliqui* (any) is pronounced "AH'-LEE-KWEE."

I. CONVERSATIONAL LATIN

Lingua Latina Conlocutioni

It's not the heat, it's the humidity.

Non color sed umor est qui nobis incommodat.

What a bore!
Qui vir odiosus!

What a dolt!
Qui stipes!

Cocktail Party Chitchat

Hot enough for you?
Satine caloris tibi est?

Run into much traffic on the way over?
*Turbane magna vehiculorum obviam erat tibi
venienti huc?*

What do you think I paid for this watch?
Quanto putas mihi stare hoc holrogium manuale?

You know what I think? I think ...
Visne scire quod credami? Credo ...

... that all wrestling is fixed.
...luctationes omnes praestitutas esse.

... that flying saucers are real.
...orbis volantes ex/are.

...that Elvis is still alive.
...Elvem ipsum etiam vivere.

...that the weather has been altered by rocket launches.
...missiones turrium flammearum statum caeli mutavisse.

...that no one's barbecue sauce is better than mine.
...condimentum pro carne in veribus cocta nullius praestare ei mei.

Is that so?
Ain tu?

Really?
Vero?

You don't say!
Dic! Itane est!

You can say that again!
Illud iteium dicere potes!

You know what they say ...
Scis quod dicunt...

...here today, gone tomorrow.

.... *hodie adsit, cras absit.*

...seen one, seen them all.

....*uno viso, omnia visa sunt.*

...what goes around, comes around.

...*id quod circumiret, circumveniat.*

...que sera, sera.

...*quod fiat, fiat.*

God, look at the time! My wife will kill me!

Di! Ecce hora! Uxor mea me necabit!

Excuse me. I've got to see a man about a dog.

*Mihi ignosce. Cum homine de cane debeo
congrredi.*

Darn! There goes my beeper!

Heu! Tintinnuntius meus sonat!

I'm outta here.

Abeo.

Have a nice day.

Die dulci fruere.

Pithy Latin Expressions to Use in English

Ipsa facto

By that very fact

Nullo modo

No way

Labra lege.

Read my lips.

Pactum factum

A done deal

Fors fortis

Fat chance

Casu consulto

Accidentally on purpose

Raptus regaliter

Royally screwed

Totus anctus

In a world of hurt

Utinam

Hopefully

Lingua Latina Nuntiis

Down boy, nice doggie!

Seda te, catule bone!

Woof woof! Grrrr!

Latio! Fremo!

Latin Signs for Our Times

CAVE CANEM

BEWARE OF DOG

NOLI PERTURBARE

DO NOT DISTURB

NOLI INTRARE

KEEP OUT

OPORTET MINISTROS MANUS LAVARE

ANTEQUAM LATRINAM RELINQUENT

EMPLOYEES MUST WASH HANDS BEFORE

LEAVING

RESTROOM

BARBARI! IN HOC CURRU NULLA ARCA

SONORUM ADSIT!

NO RADIO!

TIBI GRATIAS AGIMUS QUOD NIHIL FUMAS
THANK YOU FOR NOT SMOKING

*SI HOC SIGNUM LEGERE POTES, OPERIS BONI
IN REBUS LATINIS ALACRIBUS ET FRUCTUOSIS
POTIRI POTES!*

IF YOU CAN READ THIS SIGN, YOU CAN GET A
GOOD JOB IN THE FAST-PACED, HIGH-PAYING
WORLD OF LATIN!

Latin Bumper Stickers for Your Chariot

FRENA PRO FERIS TENEO
I BRAKE FOR ANIMALS

BALAENAE NOBIS CONSERVANDAE SUNT
SAVE THE WHALES

SONA SI LATINE LOQUERIS
HONK IF YOU SPEAK LATIN

*CUM CATAPULTAE PROSCRIPTAE ERUNT TUM
SOLI PROSCRIPTI CATAPULTAS HABEBUNT*
WHEN CATAPULTS ARE OUTLAWED, ONLY
OUTLAWS WILL HAVE CATAPULTS

*SI HOC ADFIXUM IN OBICE LEGERE POTES, ET
LIBERALITER EDUCATUS ET NIMIS*

PROPINQUUS ADES

IF YOU CAN READ THIS BUMPER STICKER,
YOU ARE BOTH VERY WELL EDUCATED AND
MUCH TOO CLOSE

Vanitas Plates

<i>INCITATUS</i>	SPEED DEMON
<i>VAGANS</i>	CRUISING
<i>LITORALIS</i>	BEACH BUM
<i>MANNUS</i>	MUSTANG
<i>FRACTUM</i>	JALOPY
<i>NITIDUS</i>	SNAZZY
<i>URSUS</i>	BEAR
<i>AMO VIUM</i>	I LOVE SEX
<i>TURBO</i>	TURBO

Latin as a Computer Language

Why won't you print out?

Cur ullum imprimere non vis?

Don't you dare erase my hard disk!

Ne auderis delere orbem rigidum meum!

I did not commit a fatal error!

Non erravi perniciose!

Garbage in, garbage out.
Purgamentum init, exit purgamentum.

An All-Purpose Personal Ad

Attractive and intelligent man/woman wishes to meet a Latin speaker of the opposite sex. Please-
no pig Latin!

*Virstmulier iucundusstiucunda intellegensque vult
obviam convenire alicui sexus adversi qui lingua
Latina utitur. Amabo
nihil loquelae Latinae suillae!*

An All-Purpose Letter

Dear Sir:

I have received your letter and I will give the
matter to which you
referred my promptest and fullest attention.

Best wishes,

*Dominus meus: Epistulam tuam accepi et rei cuius
mentionem ibi fecisti animadversionem meam
promptissimam plenissimamque dabo.*

Semper vale et salve,

An All-Purpose Postcard Message

Having a wonderful time. I wish you were here. Or should it be, I should wish you had been here? Or maybe, I should have been wishing that you had been here? Or, I did wish you to have been here?

Best,

Tempus dulcissime o3to. Volo ut mecum adsis.

Aut debetne dicere, Velim ut mecum adeiis? Aut fortasse, Vellem ut mecum adfueris? Aut, Volui te mecum adfuisse?

Optationes optimas ad te,

An All-Purpose Answering-Machine Message

Hello. No one can come to the phone right now to take your call, but you can leave a message if you want by speaking as soon as you hear the beep.

Remember to wait for the beep. Bye.

Salve. Nemo nunc ipsum advenire ad

longelocutum ad vocem tuam accipiendam

potest, sed possis si velis nuntiam tradere

dicendo simul ac sonitum audiveris. Memento

sonitu praestolare. Ave.

An All-Purpose Telephone Prank

Hello, is this the supermarket? Do you have Janitor in a Drum and Mr. Clean in a bottle? You

do? Well, let them out! Ha ha ha!

*Dic, estne magnimercatus? Estne vobis lanitor in
Cupa et Magister Purus in ampulla? Si-cine?
Bene, eos emitte! Hae hae hae!*

An All-Purpose Stick-up Note

I have a catapult. Give me all the money, or I will
fling an enormous rock at your head.

*Catapultam habeo. Nisi pecuniam omnem mihi
dabis, ad caput tuum saxum immane mittam.*

Lingua Latina Occupationi

This is all blue sky.

Totum de caelo caeruleo venit.

It ain't over 'til it's over.

Id imperfectum manet dum confectum erit.

Let's look at the bottom line.

Summam scrutemur.

Negotiating in Latin

I'd like to cut a deal.

Volo pactum facere.

Now this isn't carved in stone.
Nunc hoc in marmoie non est incisum.

This is just a ballpark figure.
Hic est numerus, plus aut minus.

I'm thinking out loud.
Clara voce cogito.

This is all blue sky.
Totum de caelo caeruleo venit.

I think we're on the same wavelength.
Credo nos in fluctu eodem esse.

Sweetening the Deal

Can you put more money on the table?
Potesne plus pecuniae in mensa ponere?

Let's look at the bottom line.
Summam scrutemur.

Is that your best offer?
Num ista condicio optima est?

Can't you sharpen up your pencil a little on this?

Nonne potes stilum tuum in hac re paulum acuere?

If you can't go any higher, the deal is off.
Si plus offene non potes, pactum ruptum est.

Playing Hardball

We're back to square one.
In carceribus denuo adsumus.

I'm wasting my time.
Tempus meum tero.

That's the deal. Take it or leave it.
Ecce pactum. Id cape aut id relinque.

You're not the only game in town.
In oppido lusor solus non es.

Well, you win some, you lose some.
Modo vincis, modo vinceris.

Hidden Insults

LATIN: *Podex perfectus es.*

WHAT YOU SAY IT MEANS: You did a terrific job.

WHAT IT REALLY MEANS: You are a total asshole.

LATIN: *De stella Maitis vere venisti.*

WHAT YOU SAY IT MEANS: That's a truly remarkable insight.

WHAT IT REALLY MEANS: You are definitely from Mars.

LATIN: *Stercorem pro cerebro habes.*

WHAT YOU SAY IT MEANS: That's certainly food for thought.

WHAT IT REALLY MEANS: You have shit for brains.

LATIN: *Caput tuum in ano est.*

WHAT YOU SAY IT MEANS: You hit the nail right on the head.

WHAT IT REALLY MEANS: You have your head up your ass.

LATIN: *Futue te ipsum et caballum tuum.*

WHAT YOU SAY IT MEANS: I've really got to take my hat off to you.

WHAT IT REALLY MEANS: Screw you and the horse you rode in on.

Useful Business Expressions

Take the bull by the horns.

Taurum per cornua prehende.

It comes with the territory.

Cum tractu traducto.

Give me a little feedback.

Dic mihi paulum quod sentis.

If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Si fractum non sit, noli id reficere.

Get your ducks in a row.

Anates tuas in acie instrue.

The ball is in your court.

Pila in area tua est.

I'm up the creek without a paddle.

In rivo fimi sine remo sum.

It ain't over until it's over.

Id imperfectum manet dum confectum erit.

Making a Cold Call

I'd like to bounce something off you.

Aliquo te volo petere.

You seem like someone who knows a good thing

when he sees it.

Tute videris esse qui noscat rem bonam cum videat.

It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Occasio rarissima est.

I'm sorry we couldn't do business.

Stercorem pro cerebro habes.

The *Una-Minutia* Manager

Take a letter.

Scribe.

Xerox.

Huius Xerographiam.

Hold my calls.

Fac ut nemo me vocet.

I don't get headaches. I give them.

Dolores capitis non fero. Eos do.

The buck stops here.

Denarius hic sistit.

There's no free lunch.

Nulla mensa sine impensa.

You're fired.

Ego te demitto.

Mogul Jargon

Let's take a meeting.

Congressum faciamus.

Have your people talk to my people.

Tuos iube meis dicere.

What's the net-net on this?

Quid in re reditum residuum reliquumque restat?

It's the standard deal.

Conventum consuetum est.

Baby, sweetheart, would I lie to you?

Amicule, deliciae, num is sum qui mentiar tibi?

Let's cut to the chase.

Ad venatum vadamus.

Don't pass on this!

Noli hoc praeterire!

Give me a green light!
Da mihi lumen viride!

You're beautiful!
Pulcher es!

Let's have lunch, really!
Prandeamus, vere!

Lingua Latina Testamentis

God, these halftime shows are boring.
*Hercle, ludicra haec inter dimidia muneris
intercedentia insulsa sunt.*

These are great seats, aren't they?
Sedilia haec, nonne praestant?

At the Football Stadium

These are great seats, aren't they?
Sedilia haec, nonne praestant?

First and ten, do it again! Touchdown!
*Primum et decem est, rursus agendum est!
Detractum!*

God, these halftime shows are boring.
*Hercle, ludicra haec inter dimidia muneris
intercedentia insulsa sunt.*

At the Ball Park

I hate Astroturf.
Gramen artificiosum odi.

The designated-hitter rule has got to go.
Lex clavatoris designati rescindenda est.

The best baseball stadium is still Fenway Park.
*Stadium sedipilae optimum Saeptum Paludosum
etiamnunc est.*

Cheering for Your Team

Let's go ...
Eamus, O ...

AMERICAN LEAGUE/EAST

Orioles	<i>Icteri Galbuli</i>
Yankees	<i>Ianqui</i>
Blue Jays	<i>Cyanocittae Cristatae</i>
Brewers	<i>Fermentatores</i>
Red Sox	<i>Tibialia Rubentia</i>
Indians	<i>Indi</i>

Tigers *Tigres*

AMERICAN LEAGUE/WEST

A's *Athletici*

Angels *Angeli*

Royals *Regii*

Rangers *Equites*

Twins *Gemini*

Mariners *Nautae*

White Sox *Tibialia Alba*

NATIONAL LEAGUE/EAST

Expos *Expositiones*

Mets *Metropolitae*

Cubs *Catuli*

Cardinals *Cardinales*

Pirates *Piratae*

Phillies *Philadelphii*

NATIONAL LEAGUE/WEST

Giants *Gigantes*

Astros *Astrotholi Incolae*

Reds *Rubri*

Dodgers *Elusores*

Padres *Patri*

Braves *Fortes*

At a Hockey Game

Hockey fans are real animals.

Fautores ludi glacialis Borei feri meri sunt.

Here comes the Zamboni.

Hue accedit Zambonis.

At the Poker Table

Read 'em and weep.

Lege atque lacrima.

This isn't a hand, it's a foot.

Hoc non manus sed pes est.

I'm going to take a Mulligan.

Alterum ictum faciam.

We're playing winter rules, aren't we?

Nonne lege hiemali ludimus?

This is a gimme, isn't it?

Nonne hoc mihi datur?

Isn't that lucky! My ball just rolled out of the rough
and onto the fairway!

*Fortunatus sum! Pila mea de gramine horrido
modo in pratum lene recta volvit!*

On the Tennis Court

It's just out!

Paulo praetei regionem est!

A little wide!

Minime latum!

It was just a hair long!

Longius capillo fuit!

It's out by an inch!

Una uncia abest!

Boy, I hate lift lines.

Heu, odi manere in agmine pro sellis volatilibus.

Watch where you're going, you jerk!

Obseiva quo vadis, cinaede!

Avalanche!

Lapsus nivium!

Let's get in the hot tub!

In thermulas intremus!

At the Beach

Look at the hooters on that one.

Ecce ilia mammeata.

Let's build a sand Forum.

Forum harenae aedificemus.

Do you want a frosty one?

Visne frigidum!

What's that in the water?

Quid est illud in aqua?

Shark! Shark!

Pistrix! Pistrix!

On a Yacht

What happens if I pull this rope?

Quid fiat si hoc rudentem vellam?

Can I drive?

Licetne mihi gubemare?

Is there supposed to be a lot of water down here?

Debetne multum aquae subter esse?

All of a sudden I'm not feeling so good.
Subito minime valeo.

At the Spa

There is something wrong with this scale.
Haec trutina enat.

Was your masseur trained in East Germany?
Tractatorne in Germania Oiientali doctus est!

It's on a plate, it must be food.
In catillo est, cibus esse debet.

Is there an alcoholic beverage made from oat
bran?
Estne ebriamen de furfure avenaceo factum?

Lingua Latina Utilis

Sometimes I get this urge to conquer large parts
of Europe.
*Interdum feror cupidine partium magnarum
Europae vincendarum.*

A total nutcase.
Non compos mentis est.

Listen, would you repeat everything you just told me, only this time say it in English.

Heu, modo itera omnia quae mihi nunc nuper narravisti, sed nunc Anglice.

You charge how much an hour?

Quantum in una hora imputas?

Things to Say to Your Accountant

This amount here, is that what I made or what I owe?

Haec summa, estne quod merui aut quod debeo?

Where do I sign?

Ubi signo?

Unfortunately, I can't find those particular documents.

Eheu, litteras istas reperire non possum.

I know why the numbers don't agree! I use Roman numerals!

Scio cur summae inter se dissentiant! Numeris Romanis utor!

Things to Say to Your Banker

I don't want a toaster.

Furnulum pani nolo.

I can't be overdrawn.

Fieri non potest ut ratio mea deficiat.

Things to Say to Your Stockbroker

Just what exactly is a pork belly?

Quidnam est sterilicula?

I thought the idea was to buy low and sell high.

*Credidi pretio parvo emere et magno vendere tibi
in animo fuisse.*

Are you telling me that sunspots caused the
market crash?

*Dicisne mihi maculas in sole mercatum labi
fecisse?*

This isn't going to hurt, is it?

Num mihi dolebit hoc?

Something important came up, so I'll have to
cancel my appointment.

Quadam re magna facta constitutum meum mihi

deponendum est.

Things to Say to Your Psychiatrist

Sometimes I get this urge to conquer large parts of Europe.

Interdum feror cupidine partium magnarum Europae vincendarum.

I think some people in togas are plotting against me.

Sentio aliquos togatos contra me conspirare.

I have this compulsion to speak Latin.

Latine loqui coactus sum.

What has my mother got to do with it?

Quid agitur de matre mea?

Really rad, dude!

Radicitus, comes!

What's happening?

Quid fit?

Things to Say to an Obnoxious Child

In the good old days, children like you were left to perish on windswept crags.

Antiquis temporibus, nati tibi similes in rupibus ventosissimis exponebantur ad necem.

I'm rubber, you're glue, bounces off me, sticks to you!

Flexilis sum, gluten es, me resilit, ad te haeret!

Things to Say to a Movie Star

You look shorter and older in person.

Videris humilior seniorque coram.

Can I have your autograph?

Licetne tibi mihi dare tuam subscriptionem?

I do not have any spare change.

Est mihi nullus nummus superfluus.

I gave at the office.

In tabulario donationem feci.

I do not wish to "check it out."

Nolo id "perscrutari."

I'm not interested in your dopey religious cult.

Nihil curo de ista tua stulta superstitione.

If Caesar were alive, you'd be chained to an oar.
Caesar si viveret, ad remum dareris.

Things to Say to a Malfunctioning Soft-Drink Machine

You infernal machine! Give me a beverage or give me back my money!

Machina improba! Vel mihi ede potum vel mihi redde nummos meos!

Lingua Latina Rationi

Holy Moly!
Mecastor!

I didn't expect you home so soon!
Non sperabam te domum tam cito revenite!

If I were you, I wouldn't walk in front of any catapults!
Cave ne ante ullas catapultas ambules!

Embarrassing Situations Are Less Embarrassing in Latin

I'd like to buy some condoms.

Volo comparare nonnulla tegumembra.

I didn't expect you home so soon!

Non sperabam te domum tam cito revenire!

I don't know how that got into my pocket.

Nescio quomodo illud in sinum meum intraverit.

Of course I know what day today is! I just can't remember the English word for it.

Scilicet scio quid sit hodiernus dies! Modo ei non possum meminisse verbum Anglicum.

Oh! I was just looking to see whether you had any Kleenex here among these papers on your desk.

O! Conabar cognoscere num tibi adsit Nascida in mensa tua inter haec scripta.

Do you by any chance happen to own a large, yellowish, very flat cat?

Estne tibi forte magna feles fulva et planissima?

Bald-Faced Lies Are Less Bald-Faced in Latin

The check is in the mail.

Perscriptio in manibus tabellariorum est.

I have nothing to declare.

Nihil declaro.

I don't know what you're talking about.

Nescio quid dicas.

It was that way when I got here.

Ita erat quando hic adveni.

There's no one here by that name.

Nemo hic adest illius nominis.

Don't call me, I'll call you.

Noli me vocare, ego te vocabo.

Flattery Sounds More Sincere in Latin

Have you lost weight?

Nonne macescis?

You haven't aged a bit!

Minime senuisti?

It looks great on you!

Id tibi praebet speciem lepidissimam!

A wig? I never would have guessed!

Capillamentum? Haudquaquam conieci esse!

Intimate Subjects Are Easier to Broach in Latin

Your fly is open.

Braccae tuae aperiuntui.

Your slip is showing.

Subucula tua apparet.

You have a big piece of spinach on your front teeth.

In dentibus anticis frustum magnum spinaciae habes.

You've been misusing the subjunctive.

Abutebaris modo subjunctivo.

Self-Assertiveness Is Simpler in Latin

Hey, we're all in line here!

Heus, hic nos omnes in agmine sunt!

No cutting in!

Noli inferre se in agmen!

No, excuse me, I believe I'm next.

Non, mihi ignosce, credo me insequentem esse.

You're from New York, aren't you?
Nonne de Novo Eboraco venis?

Threats Carry More Weight in Latin

Watch out - you might end up divided into three parts, like Gaul.

Prospice tibi - ut Gallia, tu quoque in tres partes dividaris.

People will soon be referring to you in the past pluperfect tense.

In tempore praeterito plus quam perfecto de te mox dicent.

If I were you, I wouldn't walk in front of any catapults.

Cave ne ante ullas catapultas ambules.

Fighting Words Are Safer in Latin

What did you call me?

Quid me appellavisti?

Yeah, I'm talking to you.

Ita, te adloquor.

You want to repeat that?

Visne illud iterare?

A comedian, huh?

Ita veto, esne comoedus?

Oh yeah? Your mother!

Itane? Tua mater!

You want to make something of it?

Visne aliquid de illo facere?

You and whose army?

Tutene? Atque cuius exercitus?

Let's step outside.

Foras gradiamur.

Well, if you don't understand plain Latin, I'm not going to dirty my hands on you.

Bene, cum Latine nescias, nolo manus meas in te maculare.

Excuses Sound More Believable in Latin

My dog ate it.

Canis meus id comedit.

The cleaning lady threw it away.

Ancilla id abiicit.

It fell into the shredder.

Id in machinam schidarum scindendarum incedit.

I did call. Maybe your answering machine is broken.

Sane ego te vocavi. Forsitan capedictum tuum desit.

My watch stopped.

Horologium manuale meum stitit.

My car wouldn't start.

Currus meus se movere noluit.

I was kidnapped by aliens. What year is it?

Hostes alienigeni me abduxerunt. Qui annus est?

B.S. Is More Convincing in Latin

I'm glad you asked me that.

Gaudeo te illud de me rogavisse.

I'll put all my cards on the table.

Chartas meas omnes in tabulam ponam.

You know, I'm your biggest fan.
Edepol, fautoi tuus maximus sum.

I'm only thinking of what's best for you.
Modo cogito quid prosit rebus tuis.

Believe me, this hurts me more than it hurts you.
Mihi crede, hoc mihi magis quam tibi nocet.

Latin Medical Names for Nonexistent But Useful Diseases

Impedimentum memoriae
(a mental block that makes it hard for you to remember names)

Inopia celeritatis
(a mild dyslexia that makes it impossible to arrive on time)

Dolor antepandialis
(a gastric problem that occasionally makes you cancel a lunch)

Morbus irrigationis
(a rare disease aggravated by watering friends' plants)

Taedium pellucidorum

(an eye condition that keeps you from looking at people's slides)

An All-Purpose Evasion of a Request for a Latin Translation

You can't say that in Latin.

Illud Latine dici non potest.

An All-Purpose Phony Translation of a Latin Inscription

"Having done these things, they made the sacrifices prescribed by custom lest they be found lacking in filial piety."

Lingua Latina Docta

I can't get no satisfaction...

Nullae satisfactionis potiri non possumin.

My favorite group is the Rolling Stones.

Caterva carissima mea Lapidēs Provolventes est.

I like the Beach Boys

Amo Pueros Litoris.

At the Theater

If you want good tickets, you've got to go to a scalper.

Si desideras tesseras bonas tibi opus est ad sectorem ire.

You know, we really ought to go to the theater more often.

Pol, ad spectaculum saepius nobis eundum est.

Fire!

Flamma!

At a Concert

What time do you think we'll be out of here?

Quo tempore credis nos exituros?

Is it over? Do I applaud now?

Estne confectum? Nuncine applaudo?

At a Literary Gathering

Seen any good movies lately?

Vidistine nuper imagines moventes bonas?

How about those Forty-Niners?

Quid sentis de Undequinquagintis?

At a Poetry Reading

It doesn't rhyme.

Nulla metio compositum est.

I don't care. If it doesn't rhyme, it isn't a poem.

Non curo. Si metrum non habet, non est poema.

At an Art Exhibition

You call this art? A two-year-old could do better.

Dicisne hoc opus artem essei Quivis infans rem meliorem facere potest.

I don't know much about art, but I know what I like.

Cum Musis deditus non sim, nosco quod amo.

At the Vatican

Know where I can get a cup of coffee around here?

Scisne ubi pocillum coffeae apud hanc locum possim capere?

Is this the way to the Sistine Chapel?

Ducitne haec via ad Capellam Sextinam?

Is it all right if I use a flash in here?

Licetne mihi hic fulgure uteri?

Now that's a ceiling!

Ecce lacunar mirum!

Is this the only gift shop?

Haecine taberna munusculorum unica est?

Excuse me, can you recommend a good restaurant nearby?

Nisi molestum est, potesne mihi recommendare popinam bonam vicinam?

Where can I get a hat like that?

Ubi possum potiri petasi similis isti?

At the Movies

This is a remake of a French film.

Haec imago movens ex pristina Gallicana recreata est.

The sequel is never as good as the original.
Sequella numquam tam bona est quam oiigo.

Look out, there's some crud on this seat.
Cave, aliquod squaloris est in hac sede.

Timeless Lines from the Movies

Make my day.
Fac ut gaudeam.

Round up the usual suspects.
Conlige suspectos semper habitos.

You know, Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore.
Certe, Toto, sentio nos in Kansate non iam adesse.

Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn.
Re vera, cara mea, mea nil refert.

All Music Is Classical Music in Latin

My favorite group is ...

Caterva carissima mea est...

The Beatles	<i>Cimictus</i>
The Temptations	<i>Inlecebrae</i>
The Rolling Stones	<i>Lapides Provolventes</i>
<i>The Who</i>	<i>Ille Quis</i>
The Grateful Dead	<i>Mortui Grati</i>
The Monkees	<i>Simitatores</i>
The Beach Boys	<i>Pueri Litoris</i>
Country Joe and the Fish	<i>Iosephus Agrestis</i>
<i>Piscesque</i>	

All TV Is Educational TV in Latin

My favorite show is ...

Spectaculum caiissimum est ...

Gilligan's Island	<i>Insula Gilliganis</i>
Jeopardy	<i>Periculum</i>
Hollywood Squares	<i>Quadrata Illiceti</i>
Wheel of Fortune	<i>Rota Fortunae</i>
The Love Boat	<i>Navis Amoris</i>
Diff'rent Strokes	<i>Ictus Diff'rentes</i>
Leave It to Beaver	<i>Id Castori Concedite</i>
Happy Days	<i>Dies Felices</i>
Mission: Impossible	<i>Opus: Quod Fieri Non</i>
<i>Potest</i>	
The Young and the Restless	<i>Iuvenes Inquietesque</i>

Hawaii Five-O
Divorce Court
The Gong Show
Tintinnabuli

Hawaii Quinque-Nil
Curia Divortiorum
Spectaculum

The Flintstones
The Price Is Right
The Twilight Zone

Silices
Pretium Iustum Est
Zona Crepusculi

Lingua Latina Vitae Communi
SALVE CLASSIS DE ANNO LXIII

Face it, you're stuck in a dead-end job.
Aspice, officio fungeris sine spe honoris amplioris.

Is that a grey hair?
Illeecine canities?

Aren't high school reunions great?
Nonne conventus ludi litterarum praestant?

Put on a little weight, haven't you?
Nonne aliquantulum pinguescis?

In a Bar

I'll have ...
Da mihi sis ...

... a light beer. ...*cerevisiam dilutam.*
... a glass of white wine ...*poculum vini albi.*
... a martini. ...*spiculum argenteum.*
... a fog cutter. ...*quod nebulam dissipat.*

I'll drink to that!
Hoc ei propinabo!

Bartender! Another round!
Caupo! Etiamnunc!

Cheers!
Propino tibi salutem!

At a WASP Country Club

That is the largest drink I have ever seen.
Ilia potio maxima est a me visa.

I think several of the people here are dead.
Credo nonnullos hic mortuos esse.

Those green pants go so well with that pink shirt
and the plaid jacket!
*Braccae illae virides cum subucula rosea et tunica
Caledonia
- quam elegantei concinnatur!*

I can't understand what you are saying. Are your jaws wired together?

Verba tua intellegere non possum. Filone ferreo maxillae tuae iunctae sunt?

At a Hip Disco

Do you want to dance? I know the Funky Broadway.

Visne saltare? Viam Latam Fungosam scio.

How do you get your hair to do that?

Quomodo cogis comas tuas sic videri?

At a Birthday Party

Happy birthday!

Tibi diem natalem felicem!

Here's a pinch to grow an inch!

Te vellico ut uncia crescas!

Speech! Speech!

Ora! Ora!

At a Family Reunion

Put on a little weight, haven't you?

Nonne aliquantulum pinguescis?

Is that a gray hair?

Illeecine canities?

Honeybutter, when are you going to get married?

*Mellitastes, quando aliquemstaliquam in
matrimonium accipiesstduces?*

You're not going to get a divorce, are you?

Num est tibi in animo divortium facere?

Face it, you're stuck in a dead-end job.

Aspice, officio fungeris sine spe honoris amplioris.

Say, you sure are drinking a lot.

Re vera, potas bene.

Isn't it great to have the whole family together?

*Nonne dulce est familiam totam in unum locum
cogere?*

At Your High School Reunion

Oh! Was I speaking Latin again?

Vah! Denuone Latine loquebar?

Silly me. Sometimes it just sort of slips out.
Me ineptum. Interdum modo elabitur.

Talking to Pets

Polly want a cracker?
Pulle! Visne frustum?

Sit! Roll over! You see, he understands Latin.
Sede! Volve! Ecce, Latine scit.

Bad kitty! Why don't you use the cat box? I put
new litter in it.
*Feles mala! Cut cista non uteris? Stramentum
novum in ea posui.*

Useful Curses

May barbarians invade your personal space!
Utinam barbari spatium propnum tuum invadant!

May conspirators assassinate you in the mall!
Utinam coniurati te in foro interficiant!

May faulty logic undermine your entire philosophy!
Utinam logica falsa tuam philosophiam totam

suffodiant!

May you always misuse the subjunctive!

Utinam modo subiunctivo semper male utaris!

Biological Terms of Endearment

Homo sapiens

A human being

Fiber fervidus

An eager beaver

Cuniculus inscius

A dumb bunny

Pavo absolutus

A total turkey

Lacertus atrioli

A lounge lizard

Fera festiva

A party animal

Radix lecti

A couch potato

Lingua Latina Libidinosa

Yes! Ooh! Ummm!
Aio! Hui! Hem!

Oh! More! Go on!
O! Plus! Perge!

Do you come here often?
Frequentasne hunc locum?

Haven't we met somewhere before?
Nonne alicubi prius convenimus?

What's your sign?
Quo signo nata es?

You strike me as a very deep person.
Apparet te habere ingenium profundum.

I feel that I already know you.
Sentio me iam te novisse.

I think fate brought us together.
Credo fatum nos coegisse.

Your place or mine?
Apudne te vel me?

You know, the Romans invented the art of love.
Romani quidem artem amatoriam invenerunt.

A little more up and to the right.
Paululum sursum et dextrorsum.

Oh! More! Go on! Yes! Ooh! Ummm!
O! Plus! Petge! Aio! Hui! Hem!

Ending the Relationship

Let's not rush into anything.
In ullam rem ne properemus.

I'm not ready to make a commitment.
Non sum paratus me committere.

I'm not sure we're right for each other.
Nescio num alius idoneus alii sit.

I hope we'll still be friends.
Sperp nos familiares mansuros.

I guess fate wanted us to part.
Suspikor fatum nos voluisse diversos.

Lingua Latina Cenatica

Give me a hamburger, French fries, and a thick shake.

Da mihi sis bubulae frustum assae, solana tuberosa in modo Gallico fricta, ac quassum lactatum coagulatum crassum.

The waitress drew a smiley face on the check.

Ancilla in computatione faciem subridentem pinxit.

I'll have ...

Da mihi sis ...

...a hamburger, French fries, and a thick shake

...bubulae frustum assae, solana tuberosa in modo Gallico fricta ac quassum lactatum coagulatum crassum.

... a bucket of fried chicken *...hamam pulli tosti.*

... a pizza with everything on it. *...crustum Etruscum cum omnibus in eo.*

In a Chain Theme Restaurant

I want the Buffalo chicken wings.

Alas gallinaceas de urbe Bovis volo.

The waitress drew a smiley face on my check.
Ancilla in computatione faciem subridentem pinxit.

Frankly, I think the chef put too much thyme in the sauce.

Ut vere dicam, credo coquum nimium thymi in liquamen mississe.

Look at the size of that pepper mill.

Ecce magnitudinem illae molae piperi.

It's a nice little wine, but it lacks character and depth.

Vinum bellum iucundumque est, sed animo corporeque caret.

In a Chinese Restaurant

Please, no MSG.

Parce, sodes, glutamato monosodio.

Do you have "flied lice?" Ha ha ha.

Habesne "olyzam flictam?" Hae hae hae.

At the Stop 'n' Shop

Look!...

Ecce!...

...Jelly beans	... <i>Fabae suaves</i>
...Potato chips	... <i>Assulae solanorum</i>
<i>tuberosorum</i>	
...Gummy Bears	... <i>Ursuli Gummi</i>
...Coca-Cola	... <i>Cola-Coca</i>
...Bubble gum	... <i>Manducabulla</i>
...Cheez Whiz	... <i>Caseus Velox</i>
...Mars Bars	... <i>Lateres Martiales</i>
...Twinkies	... <i>Scintillae</i>
...Milky Ways	... <i>Viae Lacteae</i>
...Tinfoil	... <i>Bractea stannea</i>
...Moon Pies	... <i>Crusta Lunares</i>
...Glad Bags	... <i>Sacci Laeti</i>
...Pretzels	... <i>Nodi salsi</i>
...Aspirin	... <i>Pilulae acetylsalicylicae</i>

At the Barbecue

Take a look at those steaks!
Contemplate carunculas illas!

You've really got to soak the charcoal with fuel.
Necesse est carbonem igne Graeco madefacere.

The mosquitoes are murder tonight!
Culices pessimi hac node sunt!

Ever noticed how wherever you stand, the smoke goes right into your face?

Animadvertistine, ubicumque stes, fumum recta in faciem ferri?

Come and get it!

Venite ac capite!

A Roman Recipe

1. Get 1,000 larks.

I. *Alaudarum M cape.*

2. Remove their tongues and set aside.

II. *Linguas exseca et sepone.*

3. Discard the larks.

III. *Alaudas abice.*

4. Put the tongues in a pan with a little oil and saute quickly.

IV. *Linguas mitte in sartaginem cum paulo olei et frige cito.*

5. Transfer to a hot platter. Serves four.

V. *Eas ttaice ad patellam calidam. Quattuor sufficit.*

Lingua Latina Domestica

I hate broccoli.
Odi brassicam.

Give me a break.
Da mihi habenas.

Don't play with your food.
Noli ludere alimento.

What do you say we join the clean plate club.
Nos coniungamus collegio Patellae Purae.

Domestic Discourse

Honey, I'm home.
Mellita, domi adsum.

Sheesh, what a day!
Mehercle, qui dies!

You did what to the car?
Quid carrus passus est?

You paid how much for that dress?
Quantum illae stolae pependisti?

Something's burning.

Aliquid ardet.

Oh, no, it's the roast, and the boss is coming to dinner!

Vae, ardet assa bubula atque patronus ad cenam veniet!

Minor Misunderstandings

Shopping list? What shopping list?

Libellus comparandorum? Qui libellus comparandorum?

I thought you were going to pick up the kids.

Credidi te liberos colligere.

Don't ask me where the keys are. You had them last.

Noli me logare ubi sint claves. Eas nunc nuper habebas.

But you told me your mother was coming next month!

Sed me docuisti matrem tuam postero mense venturam esse!

A call from someone named "Bubbles?" It's a wrong number.

Vocatusne de quadam "Bullula" nomine? Numerus falsus est.

Table Talk

My favorite! Tuna-noodle casserole!

Mea dilectissima! Farrago thunni!

What do you say we join the clean-plate club.

Nos coniungamus collegia Patellae Purae.

You'll eat it and like it, or you'll have it for breakfast tomorrow.

Aut id devorabis amabisque, aut eras prandebis.

Don't play with your food! Remember the starving Carthaginians!

Noli ludere alimento! Memento Caithaginienses esurientes!

Laying Down the Law

This report card is a disgrace.

Haec renuntatio infamis est.

Pay attention! I'm speaking to you!
Ausculata mihi! Tibi dico!

You're grounded!
Ad domum adligaris!

No TV for a week!
Nullam ultravisionem spectabis per septem dies!

I'm cutting your allowance in half!
Peculium dimidiatum est!

When I was your age ...
Cum tam iuvenis eram quam nunc es ...

... I had a full-time job in a salt mine ...*in salinis diu laborabam.*

... I won the Nobel Prize for promptness and neatness.
... *Praemium Nobelium celeritatis et munditiae abstuli.*

... I could speak Latin. *...Latine loqui poteram.*

Tough Talk

n-O spells No!

Verbum non N.o.n. scribitur!

Nothing doing, and that's final.

Haud fiet, et clavo fixum est.

I don't care what the other parents are doing.

Curae mihi non est quod alii parentes faciant.

I am not being unreasonable.

Non sum iniquus.

All right, we'll ask your mother.

Bene, matrem tuam rogabimus.

Okay, just this once.

Ita, semel et solum tibi permissum est.

Discussing the Babysitter

I think she's from another planet.

Arbitror eam de planeta alia venisse.

Did her parents drop her off here in a spacecraft?

Astroscaephane parentes eam huc portaverunt?

Maybe she's just a drug addict.

Fortasse modo opio addicta est.

I think I've seen her face on a milk carton or down at the post office.

Credo me faciem suam in olla lactis vel in tabulario tabellariorum vidisse.

In the Men's Department

This suit looks a little baggy.

Vestimentum laxum paululum videtur.

The lapels are too wide.

Fimbriae latiores sunt.

I don't like this shade.

Colorem hunc non diligo.

Honey, what do you think?

Mellilla, quid sentis?

When will it be ready?

Quando praesto fiet?

On the Road

We ought to have made that turn.

Nos oportuit tunc vertisse.

Give me the map.

Mihi da tabulam.

Let's ask directions.

Aliquem de via consulamus.

Would you like me to drive?

Visne me currum agree?

I am not lost.

Neutiquam erro.

Settle down back there.

Sedate vos, posteriores.

Why didn't you go when you had the chance?

Cur non isti mictum ex occasione?

You'll just have to hold it in.

Opus est tibi urinam inhibere.

Next time you'll take the bus.

Carro Canis Cani veharis posthac.

Lingua Latina Ritibus

What a lovely couple!

Qui coniuges belli!

It's not too late to back out!
Non serus matrimonium fugias!

I hear she's pregnant.
Intellego eam praegnantem esse.

At a Black-Tie Dinner Party

Let's switch place cards.
Chartas loci mutemus.

Is this the right fork?
Hacine furcilla uti decet?

Wait, that's my bread plate.
Siste, patella panis est mea.

Do I drink this or stick my fingers in it?
Hocine bibo aut in eum digitos insero?

My dessert is on fire!
Mensa secunda mea flagrat!

At a Wedding

It's not too late to back out!
Non serus matrimonium fugias.

At a Christening

Do you ever worry that there was a mix-up at the hospital?

Vobisne curae umquam est num in valetudinario confusio facta sit?

At a Funeral

Remember when we only used to run into each other at weddings?

Meministine cum nos solum in nuptiis obviam eramus?

Final Latin

DENIQUE DIAETAM EFFICACEM INVENI
AT LAST I HAVE FOUND A DIET THAT WORKS

NUNC, VERO INTER SAXUM ET LOCUM DURUM SUM

NOW, I REALLY AM BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

*DIXI ME AEGROTARE, SED ECQUIS
AUSCULTARET?*

I SAID I WAS SICK, BUT WOULD ANYBODY
LISTEN?

TAM EXANIMIS QUAM TUNICA NEHRU FIO
I AM AS DEAD AS THE NEHRU JACKET

*INVICEM, RES BONA EST NON PLUS
DENTHARPAGARUM*
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOOD NEWS IS NO
MORE DENTISTRY

SIC FRIATUR CRUSTUM DULCE
IT IS THUS THAT THE COOKIE CRUMBLES

OBESA CANTAVIT
THE FAT LADY HAS SUNG

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

De scriptore

Henry Beard spent eight harrowing years studying Latin, during which time he read selections from the works of Caesar, Cicero, Virgil, Horace, Ovid, Catullus, Plautus, Terence, and Lucretius.

After co-founding the English-language periodical

National Lampoon and writing a number of books in English, including Sailing: A Sailor's Dictionary and Miss Piggy's Guide to Life, he is happy to finally have an opportunity to make some use of his knowledge of a language that really hasn't been all that helpful over the years, except for the time he suddenly realized that the thing he was about to order from the menu of a restaurant in Rome looked an awful lot like the Latin word for "eel."

Mr. Beard resides in *Novi Eboraci* (New York).

