

# Latin Pronunciation Guide

## Vowels and Vowel Sounds:

Long Vowel Sounds	Short Vowel Sounds
Ā as in father, <i>poetā</i> , <i>amās</i>	a as in the end of ballerina, amor, magnus
Ē as in fray, <i>ēduco</i> , <i>me</i>	e as in set, res, nec
Ī as in machine, <i>portīs</i> , <i>sīc</i>	i as in sit, minor, lingua
Ō as in yoke, <i>amō</i> , <i>discipulō</i>	o as in fort, soft, mora, porta
Ū as in protrude, <i>tū</i> , <i>dūrō</i>	u as in hut, sum, tum

## Consonants and Their Pronunciation

b sounds the same as in English (e.g. bible, bear)  
c is always a hard sound as in cat  
d is same as in English  
f is the same as in English  
g is always a hard sound as in goat  
h has a breathy sound, similar to English but softer  
i sounds like a y when placed before a vowel as in yuck (iudicis)  
j is not found in the Latin alphabet  
m is the same as in English  
n is the same as in English  
p is the same as in English  
q is the same as in English  
r is trilled similar to the Spanish r  
s has a voiceless sound as in sate, never as in ease  
t is always hard; it will never take on the sh sound as in inflation  
v is pronounced like a w as in went

w is absent from the Latin alphabet

x has a similar sound to the English x as in Oxford

Both y and z are absent from the Latin alphabet

ch always has the hard k sound as in charisma

ph has a breathy p sound (think of the word uphill and the try to pronounce philosophy)

th has the hard t sound as tattoo, never soft as in thin

## Diphthongs

ae – has the same sound as the diphthong ai in English.

E.g. aisle

au – has the same sound as ou in English

e.g. house, mouse

ei – same as English ei

e.g. feign, reign.

eu – e + u pronounced in rapid sequence, single syllable. It is not a sound found in English

oe – has the oi sound as in spoil

- ui – u + i spoken as a single syllable as in the Spanish muy. This last diphthong is only used in rare cases. In fact, the only six words which this is used are cui, cuius, hui, huic, huius
- Any other instances where you see u and i together are pronounce as separate syllables (e.g. fuit – fu-it)