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| --- | --- | --- |
| Ad hoc | “to/towards this”, for this purpose | I created several ad hoc study guides. |
| Ad infinitum | “to/until infinity”, and so on and so on[[1]](#footnote-1) | It can be proved that the sequence 1, 2, 3, … continues ad infinitum. |
| Ad lib, *ad libitum* | “according to pleasure”, improvisation | When I saw the first question on the Roman Life exam of convention, I knew I was screwed so I began to ad-lib answers. |
| Ad nauseam | “to/until nausea”, and so on until the listener is so bored they vomit | I shall petition *ad nauseam* to these fools in Congress until they realize their folly. |
| Alibi (used as a noun) | “in another place” | A maid’s evidence gave the butler an alibi and so clearly the butler was not the murderer in the crime. |
| Alibi (used as an adverb) | “in another place” | The maid’s evidence showed that the butler was alibi. |
| Ars gratia artis | “art for art’s sake”, showy because I feel like it | I have a ton of flower stickers on my computer because *ars gratia artis*. |
| Bona fide (classical usage) | “with good faith”, genuine | That bona fide gold I found in my backyard is gonna make me rich! |
| Bona fide (more modern usage) | “with good faith”, credentials | I have my bona fides right here to show the manager. |
| Cui bono, *cui prodest* | “for whose good?” | The famous Roman consul and censor[[2]](#footnote-2) Lucius Cassius Longinus Ravilla, an honest and wise judge, was always in the habit of asking, time and time again, *cui bono?[[3]](#footnote-3)* |
| De facto | “in fact”, actual but not specifically recognized | That broker is the de facto chairman of the company, not the chairman himself. |
| Exempli gratia (e.g.) | “for example”, for example[[4]](#footnote-4) | TJ Latin students have many enviable qualities, e.g. intelligence, maturity, and awesomeness. |
| Et alii (et al.) | “and others”, and the rest of those guys | When using APA citations, use et al. to indicate more than 2 authors. |
| Et cetera, *et ceteros*, (etc.) (&c[[5]](#footnote-5)) | “and other things”, and so on (not to be confused with ad infinitum)[[6]](#footnote-6) | The &c on a coin with Oliver Cromwell’s face on it indicated that Cromwell was a stubborn little guy because he never did renounce the English claims on the French mainland. |
| Id est (i.e.) | “that is”, not to be confused with2 | I like citrus fruits, i.e. the juicy, edible fruits with leathery, aromatic rinds of any numerous, tropical, usually thorny shrubs or trees of the genus *Citrus*. |
| In medias res[[7]](#footnote-7) | “in the midst of things”, in the middle |  |
| Modus operandi[[8]](#footnote-8) | “way of working”, typical method | The serial killer named Panda’s modus operandi was to hang people by orange scarves and leaving a bamboo ring; thus, he could not be the murderer of a victim who was beaten over the head with a poker. |
| Nota bene (NB) | “note well”, take note of this[[9]](#footnote-9) | NB. “you (singular)” and “you (plural)” aren’t the same. |
| Non sequitur | “does not follow”, it isn’t relevant that | It was such a non sequitur for people to claim that Latin is a useless language because nobody speaks it anymore, because clearly, we Latin students are awesome and they are not. |
| Per annum (p.a.)[[10]](#footnote-10) | “every year”, each year | See footnote |
| Per capita | “every head”, per person | The equivalent per capita expenditure for the company was $8 a week. |
| Per diem | “every day”, each day | The consultant was being paid a per diem rate of $13,000. |
| Per se | “in itself”, not necessarily this, but… | I don’t have to get a perfect on my Latin exam per se, but getting a good score would be good for my overall grade. |
| Pro rata | “in proportion” | Under tort law, liability is almost always split pro rata. |
| Quod erat demonstrandum[[11]](#footnote-11) | “which was the thing that was demonstrated”, I’ve proved my point | … Therefore, I am right and you are always wrong. QED. |
| Quid pro quo[[12]](#footnote-12) | “something for something” | In law, if a contract is excessively one sided, the court may have to decide whether a quid pro quo actually existed at all, and if not, the contract may become void. |
| Requiescat in pace (RIP)[[13]](#footnote-13) | “may he or she rest in peace” | It is very common for cartoon and Halloween gravestones to have the inscription RIP, which incidentally does NOT stand for “rest in peace”. |
| Vice versa | “the other way around” | I could poke my brother in the face and drag him out of bed, or vice versa. |
| Status quo[[14]](#footnote-14) | “the existing state of affairs” | If my brother is not available for face-poking or dragging, I will put up with the status quo. |
| Alea iacta est | “the die is cast”, there’s no going back now | When asked about the accidental release of toxins into the atmosphere, the plant director merely said *alea iacta est*. |
| Carpe diem[[15]](#footnote-15),[[16]](#footnote-16) | “seize the day”, make the most of the opportunity, because you may be dead tomorrow. | When I was so nervous about my Latin Oratory for convention and thought about not doing it after all, I told myself *carpe diem* and did it anyway. |
| Caveat emptor | “let the buyer beware” | I once sold a broken computer for a thousand bucks to some idiot who didn’t take Latin and didn’t read this simply amazing study guide and didn’t know about *caveat emptor*.[[17]](#footnote-17) |
| Caveat venditor[[18]](#footnote-18) | “let the seller beware” | Because of *caveat venditor*, US tort law dictates that sellers must take responsibility for their products to discourage these sellers from selling products of ridiculously low quality. |
| De mortius nil nisi bonum | “of the dead, nothing unless it is good”, don’t speak ill of dead people. | There are so many people who were considered good people when they were alive, but were revealed to be corrupt and insane; it seems like this generation doesn’t follow *de mortius nil nisi bonum* like most of us old people did. |
| In camera[[19]](#footnote-19) | “in the room”, behind closed doors | Many civil cases are *in camera* because of their sensitive nature. |
| In vino veritas | “in wine, truth”, when you are drunk you tell the truth | If you want to interrogate someone, invite them over for a drink because *in vino, veritas*. |
| Res ipsa loquitur | “it speaks for itself”, it’s obvious | When the politican Boris Johnson was asked about why he learned Latin, he replied, “Res ipsa loquitur.”[[20]](#footnote-20) |
| Sub rosa[[21]](#footnote-21) | “under the rose”, in secret | This study guide is *sub rosa*; you can’t tell anyone about this, okay? |

1. Not to be confused with et cetera (etc.) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For those of you who don’t know, a censor was a Roman official who maintained certain aspects of the government’s finances, the census, and public morality. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This is taken from the Roman orator and statesman Marcus Tullius Cicero, from his speech *Pro Roscio Amerino*, section 84. The actual quote is *Lucius Cassius ille quem populous Romanus verissimum et sapientissimum iudicem putabat identidem in causis quaerere solebat ‘cui bono’ fuisset.* Cicero also used *cui bono* in his speech *Pro* Milone in 52 BC. He made this speech in defense of his friend Titus Annius Milo when Milo was accused of murdering his political enemy Publius Clodius Pulcher on the Via Appia. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Do NOT confuse id est (i.e.) with exempli gratia (e.g.): e.g. is used for providing examples, while i.e. is used to specify and explain. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. VERY rare, but possible usage of et cetera. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Not to be confused with ad infinitum. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. As it turns out, the Odyssey by Homer and the Aeneid by Virgil both start *in medias res*. The Iliad does it too, but it doesn’t have the one thing that most *in medias res* books have: flashbacks. Most of the action of the Odyssey in terms of time happens in a flashback in Books IX through XII, but in the Iliad, there are little to no flashbacks at all, although it starts in the think of the Trojan War. And don’t think this is only Latin and Greek books that start *in medias res*; Paradise Lost (1667) by John Milton and Light in August (1932) by William Faulkner both start *in medias res* as well. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Abbreviated MO in detective fiction. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Not to be confused with post scriptum (PS); formally, post scriptum is used after a letter’s body, as additional stuff. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Used usually for salaries, as in “$13,400,000 p.a.”; unfortunately the rest of these (per diem, per capita) are usually not abbreviated in the same manner. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. If you’ve taken geometry, you probably wrote QED at the end of your proofs as well. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. The English equivalents are many, e.g. “a favor for a favor”, “give and take”, “you scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours”, and not necessarily as vindictive as “tit for tat”. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. The next time you hear somebody use RIP instead of rest in peace, you can go yell at them for not using it correctly. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. For some reason many people believe status quo always refers to an equality, but it isn’t necessarily true. It just means what the situation is right now, regardless of whether it is equal or not. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. From Book 1, poem 11 (or more properly in Latin, Liber I, Carmen XI) of Horace’s *Odes*, which starts *Tu ne quaesieris, scire nefas…* The full quote is *carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero* which means “seize the day, trusting as little as possible in the next day [when Horace says “the next day”, he means “tomorrow” or “the future”].” [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. This is the Latin version of the more modern YOLO (you only live once). [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Just kidding, I didn’t. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. *Caveat venditor* is much less common than *caveat emptor*, but it means that sellers can also be fooled in transactions, along with buyers; see the landmark case of MacPherson v. Buick Motor Co. (1916) for more information on the beginnings of *caveat venditor* in US tort law. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Turns out, the modern word *chamber* derives from the Latin word *camera*, and so does the modern word *camera* as well (surprise, surprise!). [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. True story, actually. Who knew politicians could actually be smart? [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. This is derived from the fact that Romans had a habit of hanging a rose over council tables to indicate that all of the people present were sworn to secrecy. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)