***Latin*** ([Listen](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/60/En-us-latin.ogg)[**i**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:En-us-latin.ogg)[/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_English)[ˈlætən](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_English#Key)[/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_English), [/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_English)[ˈlætɪn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_English#Key)[/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_English); **Latin**: *lingua latīna*, IPA: [[ˈlɪŋɡʷa laˈtiːna]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_Latin)) is a [classical language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_language), originally spoken in[Latium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latium), [Italy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_Peninsula), which belongs to the [Italic branch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italic_languages) of the [Indo-European languages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-European_languages).[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin#cite_note-3) The [Latin alphabet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_alphabet) is derived from the [Etruscan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Italic_script#Etruscan_alphabet) and [Greek alphabets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_alphabet).

Through the power of the [Roman Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Republic), Latin became the dominant language in Italy, and subsequently throughout the [Roman Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Empire). [Vulgar Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vulgar_Latin) developed into the [Romance languages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romance_languages), such as [French](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_language), [Italian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_language" \o "Italian language),[Portuguese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_language), [Spanish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_language), and [Romanian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanian_language). [Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Latin_words_with_English_derivatives) and [French](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_English_words_of_French_origin) have contributed many words to English. Latin and Greek roots are used in [theology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theology), [biology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Latin_and_Greek_words_commonly_used_in_systematic_names) and [medicine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_medical_roots,_suffixes_and_prefixes).

Many students, scholars and members of the [Christian clergy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minister_(Christianity)) speak Latin fluently, and it is taught in primary, secondary and post-secondary educational institutions around the world.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin#cite_note-4)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin#cite_note-5)

By the late Roman Republic (75 BC), [Old Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Latin) had been [standardized](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_language) into [Classical Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_Latin). [Vulgar Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vulgar_Latin) was the colloquial form spoken during the same time and attested in [inscriptions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epigraphy) and the works of comic playwrights like[Plautus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plautus) and [Terence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terence).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin#cite_note-6) [Late Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Late_Latin) is the written language beginning in the 3rd century AD and [Medieval Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medieval_Latin) the language used from the ninth century until the [Renaissance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Renaissance). It was used as the language of international communication, scholarship, and science until well into the 18th century, when it began to be supplanted by[vernaculars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vernacular). [Ecclesiastical Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecclesiastical_Latin) remains the official language of the [Holy See](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_See) and the [Roman Rite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Rite) of the [Catholic Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_Church).

Latin is a highly [inflected language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fusional_language), with three distinct [genders](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grammatical_gender), seven [noun cases](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grammatical_case), four [verb conjugations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grammatical_conjugation), six [tenses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grammatical_tense), three [persons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grammatical_person), three [moods](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grammatical_mood), two [voices](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voice_(grammar)), two [aspects](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grammatical_aspect), and two [numbers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grammatical_number).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| hello | and | say | hello |
| to | my | little | Friend |
| you | stupid | cocorouch | by |
| you | Stupid | Thiefly | thief |