



Classical Latin Pronunciation

Consonants: *Most consonant sounds are the same as they are in English, with the following exceptions:*

- C** is always hard (i.e., sounds like "k"), as in the English word cat
- G** is always hard, as in the English word good (except when followed by **n**, when it sounds like "-ngn-". **Magnus**, then, is pronounced "mangus").
- I** can be a consonant as well as a vowel when followed by a vowel, in which case it sounds like the modern letter **y**. The Latin word **iam**, then is pronounced "yahm". The consonantal **i** eventually becomes the modern **j** (notice that "January" comes from **ianua**, "door").
- Q** as in English, always followed by **u**.
- R** rolled or trilled (as in modern Italian and Spanish).
- S** like the "s" in "sit", **never** like "z" in "zero".
- V** sounds like English **w**: **veni, vidi, vici** = "waynee, weede, weekee"

Vowels: *most are somewhat different than their sounds in modern English:*

- A** short like the **a** in "abut"; long like the **a** in "faather"
- E** short like the **e** in "gee"; long like the **ai** in "aim"
- I** short like the **e** in "gee"; long like the **ee** in "keee"
- O** short like the **o** in "dog"; long like the **oa** in "oats"
- U** short like the **u** in "puu"; long like the oo in "pooo"

Diphthongs/Vowel Groups:

- Ae** as in "why," "high"
- Au** as in "how," "cow"
- Ei** as in "they," "eight"
- Eu** sounds like "ay-yoo" (both vowels are sounded)
- Oe** as in "boy," "toy"
- Ui** sounds like "oo-wee" (both vowels are sounded)