

Latin Pronunciation

CONSONANTS

LETTER	CLASSICAL	ECCLESIASTICAL	EXAMPLE WORDS
c	Always sounds like the c in <i>cat</i> .	Always sounds like the c in <i>cat</i> , except when it comes before e , i , ae , or oe . In those cases, it sounds like the ch in <i>cheese</i> . Also, before those same vowels, sc sounds like the sh in <i>shoe</i> .	pecūniam placet caelīs dēscendere
g	Always sounds like the g in <i>go</i> .	Sounds like the g in <i>garden</i> when it comes before a consonant or before a , o , or u . When it comes before e , i , y , ae or oe , it sounds like the g in <i>gelatin</i> . g and n together sound like the ny in <i>canyon</i> .	greges magnam
r	Not usually rolled, but some classicists do roll the r .	Roll lightly, elegantly.	mordax lavāre
t	Always like the t in <i>top</i> .	Like the t in <i>top</i> , except in the following situations: when t and i are together and come before a vowel (and follow another letter), they sound like <i>tsee</i> .	tam pereuntium peccantium

LETTERS THAT CAN BE USED AS CONSONANTS OR VOWELS

THE LETTER i	
PRONUNCIATION RULES	EXAMPLE WORDS
<p>When used as a consonant, i sounds like the y in <i>yellow</i>. This is the same in both classical and ecclesiastical pronunciation.</p> <p>In ancient Rome there was no such thing as a j. The letter j was invented later by scribes to make reading easier. Then, in the 1500s the letter j was used by printers to represent the letter i being used as a consonant, to help distinguish between the use of i as a consonant and the use of i as a vowel.</p> <p>Some modern Latin texts use the letter i for all uses of i, while others use the letter j when the letter i is being used as a consonant.</p>	<p>iam / jam iānua / jānua iaciō / jaciō</p>

I

iaceō, ēre, -uī, -itum, *lie*. 58
iaciō, -ere, iēcī, iactum, *throw*. 24
iam, *adv.*, *now, already*; **nōn iam**, *no longer*; **iam dūdum**, *now for a long time*. 9
iānua, -ae, f., *door*. 31
lāsōn, lāsonis, m., *Jason*.
ibi, *adv.*, *there, in that place*. 9
ictus, -ūs, m., *stroke, blow*.

J

jaciō, -ere, jēcī, jactus, 3 (-io), *throw, hurl*.
jam, *adv.*, *now, already*; **nōn jam**, *no longer*.
***jānua, -ae, f.**, 1, *front door, door, gate*.
jubeō, -ēre, jūssi, jūssus, 2, *with acc. and inf.*, *order, command*.
jūdex, -icis, m., 3, *judge, juryman*.
jūdicium, -ī, n., 2, *trial (in court), judgment, decision*.

Letters That Can Be Used as Consonants or Vowels (continued)

THE LETTER		
V		
CLASSICAL	ECCLESIASTICAL	EXAMPLE WORDS
Sounds like the <i>w</i> in <i>wild</i> (when used as a consonant).	Always sounds like the <i>v</i> in <i>violin</i> .	vita SENATVS (senatus) VESPASIANO (Vespasianō)
In ancient Rome, there was no such thing as the letter u . The letter u was invented later by scribes who wished to represent the vowel usage of the letter v .		



Vowels

In Latin, there are short vowels and long vowels. Long vowels have a mark over them. This mark is called a macron, and it looks like a straight line. Short vowels generally do not have a mark over them, although you might occasionally see a short mark over a short vowel. A short mark looks like a small curve over a letter with the ends pointing up.

e with macron (long mark)

ē

e with short mark

ĕ

In classical pronunciation, there is some difference between the way long and short vowels sound. In an Italian-style ecclesiastical pronunciation, a given vowel tends to sound the same whether it is long or short. They are all pronounced long (except e, see below).

LETTER	CLASSICAL (LONG)	CLASSICAL (SHORT)	ECCLESIASTICAL	EXAMPLE WORDS
a	ā sounds like the a in <i>father</i>	a sounds like the a in <i>art</i>	ā and a both sound like the a in <i>father</i>	lātus
e	ē sounds like the a in <i>play</i>	e sounds like the e in <i>bet</i>	ē and e both sound like the e in <i>bet</i>	tē descendere delectāre
i	ī sounds like the e in <i>me</i>	i sounds like the i in <i>it</i>	ī and i both sound like the e in <i>me</i>	paucī pila velit
o	ō sounds like the o in <i>no</i>	Some books say like the o in <i>for</i> Some say like the o in <i>pot</i> Most say like the o in <i>obey</i>	ō and o both sound like the o in <i>no</i>	homō
u	ū sounds like the u in <i>tube</i>	u sounds like the u in <i>put</i>	ū and u both sound like the u in <i>tube</i>	pūblicius servus

Diphthongs

(means *two sounds*)

LETTER	CLASSICAL	ECCLESIASTICAL	EXAMPLE WORDS
ae	Sounds like the word <i>eye</i>	Like the e in <i>bet</i>	caelorum haec
au	Like the ou in <i>mouse</i>	Like the ou in <i>mouse</i>	nauta