

A new internet service dedicated to Latin

Cerberus

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Questions and answers

Stack Exchange is a network of over 100 question and answer websites, each one covering a particular topic. One of the newest is the Latin Language Stack Exchange, which is dedicated to answering questions related to the Latin language. This new site can be found here:

<http://latin.stackexchange.com>

The user interface is in English, but we welcome questions and answers in both Latin and English. If you aren't perfectly comfortable writing in either language, that's fine; other helpful users can edit and improve your posts.

Examples

The scope of the Latin Language Stack Exchange site is all things Latin:

- grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation
- etymology and relations to other languages
- interpretation of difficult passages and works of literature in Latin
- history and culture when directly about or when there is a strong connection to the Latin language
- requests of examples in literature for uses of certain words or structures

All eras of Latin are included, from old to contemporary and everything in between. Similarly, vulgar, ecclesiastical and all other forms of Latin are welcome.

Here are some titles of actual questions that have already been asked at the site:²

¹Do we want to give affiliations (university or other)?

²Is this list too long? Perhaps this list is the most important thing in the article and should be long enough to be interesting.

- How to say “every fourth year” in Latin?
<http://latin.stackexchange.com/q/241/79>
- What is the meaning of “suffragio” at the time of Calvin?
<http://latin.stackexchange.com/q/169/79>
- Are there examples of passive imperative forms of non-deponent verbs in ancient literature?
<http://latin.stackexchange.com/q/62/79>
- Meaning and etymology of urinor and urina: “to dive” comes from “pee”?
<http://latin.stackexchange.com/q/312/79>
- How do we know how the Romans pronounced Latin?
<http://latin.stackexchange.com/q/66/79>
- Are “-que” and “et” equivalent?
<http://latin.stackexchange.com/q/1/79>
- “qua dabatur liberum aeris spatium” in a letter of Erasmus:
<http://latin.stackexchange.com/q/384/79>
- Why would avoiding olive oil be a negative thing?
<http://latin.stackexchange.com/q/208/79>
- Is there a semantic difference between the two perfect tenses in medieval Latin?
<http://latin.stackexchange.com/q/331/79>
- Quid significat “-amen”?
<http://latin.stackexchange.com/q/292/79>
- Quando “a fortiori” ortum est?
<http://latin.stackexchange.com/q/295/79>
- Quomodo “cochlear” a “cochlea” est ortum?
<http://latin.stackexchange.com/q/118/79>
- Accusativus ‘Graecus’ pertinetne ullo modo ad accusativum temporis?
<http://latin.stackexchange.com/q/108/79>
- Quo modo Latine redditur “fool proof”?
<http://latin.stackexchange.com/q/769/79>

These are only titles. Follow the links to see the full questions.



Figure 1: The question “Did the Romans have a Latin name for their domestic peristylia?” can be found at <http://latin.stackexchange.com/q/1132/79>. (Picture source: Carlo Brogi (1850–1925), “Pompei. Domus Vettiorum. Veduta del peristilio”. Catalogue number: 9711.)

For all learners, users and teachers of Latin

The site is open to questions at all levels. It can be helpful to researchers who need to understand a Latin source, teachers looking for a good way to explain something, students struggling to understand their homework, or anyone who simply wants to learn something more about Latin. Everyone is free to ask and answer.

The Latin Language Stack Exchange is unique among Latin sites for a few reasons:

- The focus is on questions and answers, not discussion. In discussion forums it's easy to get sidetracked from the main question. That is avoided here.
- Through voting, the best answers rise to more visible positions at the top of the page.
- We allow both novice- and expert-level questions, but we expect users to show why they haven't been able to find a satisfactory answer on their own. This helps ensure that questions come from serious students of the language.

We will not do anyone's homework for them. The question "Here is my homework, please give answers by Thursday" is not a good one. Such a question is likely to be closed and eventually removed. The question "Should I use genitive or dative here, and why?" is much better.

When you ask a question, show that you have attempted to solve your problem yourself. The site is not a free translation and homework service, but a repository of interesting questions and illuminating answers related to the Latin language.

How to take part

So how might you take advantage of this resource? First of all, you can simply read some of the great answers that have already been written. Perhaps while doing so you'll notice that you have the knowledge to answer a question – a single question can have several answers. Or maybe you'll remember a Latin question that has bothered you for some time that you'd like to ask.

By posting high-quality questions and answers, you'll soon earn the "reputation" you need to more fully participate in the site – for example, you'll be able to vote on questions and answers, making the best questions and answers more visible.

We hope you'll register an account so that you can take advantage of all these features. Feel free to register with your real name or with a pseudonym; it's up to you. As you can see, one of the authors uses his full name, one only his first name and one a pseudonym.

Start today, and see what the site has to offer. For a quick introduction, we recommend that you see our introduction tour:

<http://latin.stackexchange.com/tour>

Contact us

As the moderators of the site, we warmly welcome you to join. If you have any questions, you can contact us and ask for details. The email address of the second author is joonas.ilmavirta@jyu.fi.³ Or you can simply come to the site and ask or answer a question. We look forward to hearing from you!

³One option is to create an address like 'latin-moderators@gmail.com'. It's probably best to give a single address. It need not be mine.