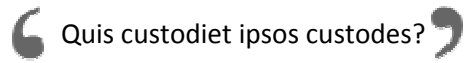


Latin Phrases Used in English



There are quite a few Latin words and phrases that appear in English, usually in written English but sometimes in spoken English too. Some of them are used more in certain areas such as law, medicine, business etc. Generally, you do not need to learn and use many Latin phrases, but it could help you to recognize them when you see them. Here are some of the most common. (Note that many Latin phrases are used in other - mainly European - languages. So if you speak one of those languages you may be familiar with many if not all of the Latin phrases on this page.)

Latin	meaning	example or comment
ad hoc	formed or done for a particular purpose only	An ad hoc committee was set up to oversee the matter.
ad nauseam	repeating or continuing to the point of boredom	The apparent risks of secondary smoking have been debated ad nauseam.
bona fide	genuine; real	Only bona fide members of the club may use the clubhouse.
caveat emptor	let the buyer beware	The principle that the buyer is responsible for checking the quality and suitability of goods before a purchase is made.
circa; c.	around; approximately	The house was built circa 1870.
coitus interruptus	interrupted congress; aborting sexual intercourse prior to ejaculation	Coitus interruptus is the only form of birth control that some religions allow.
compos mentis	in control of the mind (often used ironically)	Please call me back later when I'm compos mentis.
de facto	in fact; in reality	Although the Emperor was the head of state, the de facto ruler of Japan was the Shogun.
ergo	therefore	cogito ergo sum
erratum	error; mistake	Lists of errors from a previous publication are often marked "errata" (the plural, meaning errors).
et cetera; etc	and the rest; and so on; and more	We urgently need to buy medical equipment, drugs et cetera.
ex gratia	from kindness or grace (without recognizing any liability or legal obligation)	They received an undisclosed ex gratia payment.
ex libris	from the books; from the library	In the front of a book: Ex Libris John Brown
habeas corpus	a court order instructing that a person under arrest be brought before a judge [lit. we have a body]	The right of habeas corpus has long been regarded as an important safeguard of individual liberty.

in loco parentis	in the place of a parent	Teachers sometimes have to act in loco parentis.
in situ	in its original place	The paintings have been taken to the museum but the statues have been left in situ.
in vitro	(in biology) taking place outside a living organism (for example in a test tube)	in vitro fertilization
inter alia	among other things	The report covers, inter alia, computers, telecommunications and air travel.
per	for each	This petrol station charges \$5.00 per gallon.
per annum; p.a.	for each year	The population is increasing by about 2% per annum.
per capita	for each person	The country's annual income is \$5000 per capita.
per se	in itself/themselves; intrinsically	These facts per se are not important.
post-mortem	examination of a body after death; autopsy	The post-mortem revealed that she had been murdered.
pro rata	proportional; proportionally	The car rental charge is \$50 per day and then pro rata for part of a day.
quid pro quo	favour or advantage given or expected in return for something	Similar to "tit for tat", "give and take" and "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours."
re	about; concerning; regarding	Re: Unpaid Invoice I spoke to the manager re your salary increase.
sine qua non	essential condition; thing that is absolutely necessary; "without which not"	Words are a sine qua non of spoken language.
status quo	existing state of affairs	Monarchies naturally wish to maintain the status quo.
terra firma	dry land; the ground as opposed to the air or sea	Shackleton and his men set foot on terra firma after three weeks at sea.
verbatim	in exactly the same words	I had to memorize the text verbatim.
versus; vs.; v.	against	What are the benefits of organic versus inorganic foods? In the case of Bush versus Gore, the judges decided...
vice versa	the other way round	My telephone serves me, and not vice versa.
persona non grata	unacceptable or unwelcome person	From now on, you may consider yourself persona non grata in this house.

Some Latin Sayings and Quotations

Carpe diem! "Seize the day!" An exclamation urging someone to make the most of the present time and not worry about the future.

Cogito ergo sum. "I think, therefore I am." French philosopher Descartes' famous formula of 1641 attempting to prove his own existence.

Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori. "It is a sweet and glorious thing to die for one's country." From Horace, Odes III, 2, 13. Used by Wilfred Owen for the title of a poem about World War I, *Dulce et Decorum Est*.

Festina lente. "Hurry slowly." An [oxymoron](#) - similar to "more haste, less speed".

in vino veritas "in wine, truth" (meaning that a drunk man reveals the truth about himself)

Nil desperandum. "Do not despair."

per ardua ad astra "through struggle to the stars" (motto of British Royal Air Force and others)

Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? "Who shall guard the guards?"

quod erat demonstrandum (QED) "which was to be demonstrated" The abbreviation is often written after a mathematical proof.

Tempus fugit. "Time flies."

Veni, vidi, vici. "I came, I saw, I conquered." The message sent by Julius Caesar to the Roman Senate after his battle in 47 BC against King Pharnaces II.

Common Latin Abbreviations

- A.D. (anno domini): in the year of the Lord
- ad inf., ad infin. (ad infinitum): to infinity
- A.M. (ante meridiem): before midday
- B.A. (Baccalaureus Artium): Bachelor of Arts
- B.D. (Baccalaureus Divinitatis): Bachelor of Divinity
- B.L. (Baccalaureus Legum): Bachelor of Law
- B.Lit. (Baccalaureus Lit[t]erarum): Bachelor of Literature (or Letters)
- B.M. (Baccalaureus Medicinae): Bachelor of Medicine
- B.Mus. (Baccalaureus Musicae): Bachelor of Music
- B.Phil. (Baccalaureus Philosophiae): Bachelor of Philosophy
- B.S., B.Sc. (Baccalaureus Scientiae): Bachelor of Science
- c., circ. *see* circa
- cf. (confer): compare
- D.D. (Divinitatis Doctor): Doctor of Divinity
- D.G. (Dei Gratia): By the grace of God

- D.Lit. (Doctor Litterarum): Doctor of Literature
- D.M. (Doctor Medicinae): Doctor of Medicine
- D.V. (Deo volente): God willing
- e.g. (exempli gratia): for example
- et al. (et alii, et alia): and others
- etc. (et cetera): and the rest, and so forth
- et seq. (et sequens, et sequentes, et sequentia): and the following
- id. (idem): the same
- i.e. (id est): that is
- lb. (libra): pound
- M.A. (Magister Artium): Master of Arts
- M.D. (Medicinae Doctor): Doctor of Medicine
- M.O. (modus operandi): method of operating
- N.B. (Nota bene): Note well
- no. (numero): by number
- non obst. (non obstante): notwithstanding
- non seq. (non sequitur): it does not follow
- p.d. (per diem): by the day
- p.a. *see* per annum
- Ph.D. (Philosophiae Doctor): Doctor of Philosophy
- P.M. (post meridiem): after midday
- P.S. (post scriptum): written after
- Q.E.D. *see* quod erat demonstrandum
- R. (rex, regina): King, Queen
- R.I.P. (Requiescat in pace): Rest in peace
- vox pop. (vox populi): the voice of the people
- vs. *see* versus

Source: <http://www.englishclub.com/vocabulary/latin-phrases.htm>