



How do you learn vocabulary? GCSE Level:
Latin (9-1) - J282 (from 2016)

Contents:

Page 1 Contents

Page 2 Why learn vocab? & Why do you need to know this vocab?

Page 3 But how do you learn vocab?
1.) Associate the word with something you know:

Page 4 2.) Keep going over words:

Page 5 3.) Say them aloud 4.) Write them out

Page 6 5.) Start early 6.) Use revision tools 7.) Learn all parts of the word!

Page 7 8.) Test yourself 9.) Know which words you find hardest 10.) Don't forget the basics

Page 8 11.) Don't sabotage yourself:



Why learn vocab?

For the GCSE there is a defined and restricted vocab list. **All** of these words **must be learnt** to achieve **top grades**. The exam board has told you **exactly** what words will come up. If you do not learn every single word you are putting yourself at a major disadvantage.

There are only **450 words** on this defined vocab list. This can be found here:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/297476-gcse-latin-j282-defined-vocabulary-list-and-restricted-vocabulary-list.xlsx>

This means you could only learn 1-2 words a day for a year and know every word which could come up in your exam. You take GCSEs and properly prepare for them for 2-3 years of your life. Some students even start learning latin in year 6. This means - you have no excuse not to learn these words.

You do not need 'talent' to learn vocab. Any student with enough energy or drive can do this. So why don't you?

Why do you need to know this vocab?

If you are not ambitious and aiming to fail, you don't need to know it. If you want to do well and get an A/A* in a GCSE you do. It is that simple.

It is simple to learn. Just learn it. In the exam you won't have any books or resources. Learning it will make Latin classes fun as you can actually do well in a subject even if it's not naturally your favourite.



But how do you learn vocabulary?

There is **no** easy way or **short cut** but you can make the process a lot easier by starting early. **Little and often** is the best form of revision. You won't be able to learn every single word in 1 day. So start early and get ahead!

1.) Associate the word with something you know:

Associate the word with something that reminds you of the word. A great way of doing this is thinking of **derivatives** of the word. Luckily lots of English words are derived from Latin. What this means is you're not exactly learning a completely foreign language. Words such as: *urbis*, (3f) - city, directly relate to English words such as urban (literally the english adjective meaning: to do with the city).

Study Classics have provided vocab lists with as many derivatives as possible to help you learn via this method. They are **free** so go and check them out! They can be found here:

If there is no derivative, sadly there are some words with no derivations, associate the word with something that **means something to you**. For example: The word: *cena*, *cenae* (1f) - dinner, you might be finding difficult to learn and since there is not really an easy english derivative from this word you could write: *cena*, *cenae* (1f) - dinner, on a post-it note and stick it to your dining room table. Therefore, every time you sit down to have dinner you think of *cena* and think of dinner and food. This association then helps you learn and know the word.

Sticky notes are a great way of learning vocab. Why not write out words you find difficult to learn and stick them around your house? You could have 5 words stuck to your mirror, one on your wardrobe and so every morning you see those words and really have to remember them.



2.) Keep going over words:

You must **keep looking at** and **going over words**. This is how you make information go into your long term memory. It may seem like a struggle to translate Latin when you don't know the words. People tend to dislike subjects they are not good at or 'can't do'. Everyone can master classics with little effort. This can be done by simply going over and over words. It is repetitive but when you feel such a great sense of achievement and accomplishment once you have learnt them. This can be a painless exercise by just consistently going over them.

“Consistency is the DNA of mastery.” - Robert Sharma, Best selling author and Businessman

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then is not, an act, but a habit.” - Aristotle, Ancient Greek Philosopher

Start going through a **small amount of words everyday** until you know them so well it's basically become so easy, it's a **reflex**. For instance, the first words in Latin you ever learnt were probably: *puella, puellae* (1f) - girl,/ *canis, canis* (3m/f) dog,/ and *mercator, mercatoris* (3m/f) merchant. It seems silly to think about the translation of these words because you see them so often.

Therefore, go over words until you know them this well. **Keep looking, covering them up, testing, then checking.**

If you got it wrong, it doesn't matter because it is not the exam and you have time. Repeat this process until every word is mastered. Mastered, means learnt off by heart till you get 100% on every vocab test and repeatedly get that 100%. This is what top candidates do. Remember there are literally only 450 words. **Anyone can do this.**

Get to this stage for **every word on the vocab list**. This means you have learnt all the words and don't need to stress about the exam because there can be no surprises! Vocab is key to the translation and comprehension papers which make up over half of your exams.



3.) Say them aloud:

Say words out loud. Luckily Latin uses the **same alphabet** as English. This makes it pretty **easy to pronounce Latin**. Say it out loud and it will **deepen your cognitive connection** to the word.

This will really help learners who learn best with audio. **You can record your own voice** saying the Latin and then the English and listen to it, over and over. This will really help cement the word and it's meaning into your memory.

This method is **key** with **Principal Parts**. It is vital when it comes to **verbs to learn every part**. Third conjugation verbs are especially tricky and so saying: *rego, regere, rexi, rectum* (3), over and over will help you learn and visualise it in an exam setting. Being able to think about the form of the word in your head can be done by saying the word inside your head. Hopefully, after saying it lots you can tell when it sounds wrong. This **confidence** in knowing the form of the verb and word will allow you to remain **calm in an exam** or test setting. So for example if you saw:

civis rege erat.

The citizen was with the king.

You could instantly tell *rege* (from, *rex, regis* (3m) - king) was the noun and not the verb (second-person singular present active imperative) because saying the parts of the noun or the principal parts of the verb you could figure out, it does not make sense for it to be the verb and the 3rd declension noun *rex, regis* (3m) declines in this way.

4.) Write them out:

Especially for those who do composition, write the words out. Get a blank sheet of paper and write down the word you are trying to learn. Write the words down multiple times until the page is covered with your scribbling.

This is again **making you go over the word again and again** and therefore it will have to go into your head.



5.) Start early:

Are you in **year 9, or 10? Start now.** You should have access to the vocab list. Start learning now. There may be other things you want to do but if you start now it will make your year 11 easier. It will also allow you to focus on your other subjects if you nail your Latin vocab earlier.

Don't cram! Some people might do this, but it is probably quite a painful method of revising, not to mention stressful!

If you are still in year 11 don't worry you still have time, just get on with it and start learning!

6.) Use revision tools:

You are so lucky, you are part of a generation with so many **online tools** and resources to help your learning. Use apps like **Quizlet** (online flashcards and learning games), **Memrise**, **Anki**, **Study Classics** etc.

These are especially great as they all already have premade sets. **Study Classics' vocab tester is specifically made for you to learn vocab. GO USE IT! Get ahead.**

Or even, **make your own flash cards.** Use known revision techniques which work.

7.) Learn all parts of the word!:

As already mentioned **you must know these words.** This does not mean recognise it in the nominative if it is a noun but also know the genitive and know it's declension and how it declines. For a verb this means, learn its Principal Parts. This is, in some cases, pretty simple since all 1st declension nouns for example decline in the same way.

Where this is exceptionally important is **3rd declension nouns** which change their stem.

And **3rd conjugation verbs**, which also change their stem.

Therefore when practising don't just write down the nominative or first part of the word **but the whole thing.** Say the whole thing out loud. And then there is no way you can trip up when you see words such as: *pacis*, because you know it's the genitive of the third declension noun: *pax*.



Or when you see: *rexi*, because you know it is the first person perfect of the 3rd conjugation verb, *rego*.

8.) Test yourself:

Testing yourself literally shows you what you know and what you don't.

Think you know it? Test yourself!

If you don't do well and get a bad mark. Don't worry and take it as a challenge to improve. Being negative won't help anyone and since it is your exams, and your grades: **YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.**

Keep testing yourself until you get the grade you want. Until you get that 80, 90, 100%.

9.) Know which words you find hardest:

Always getting a word wrong? **Okay, focus on it.** Test yourself on that word until you can't not get it right. Focus on it for 5, 10, 20 minutes, 2 hours even.

Don't let your laziness stand in the way of you achieving the top grade. Make a quizlet which has very few words or write a specific set of flash cards for your **nemesis words**. Then your worst words tend to become your favourites because you put so much work into them, **you can't forget them!**

10.) Don't forget the basics:

This is normally so overlooked! Don't forget your basics. What a silly way to lose marks if you are so focused on higher skill points, you lose marks over the simple stuff.

What this means is just because you know a word **does not mean you leave it alone** and forget about it for 2 years. No! Keep reminding yourself of them just less often than horribly hard words.

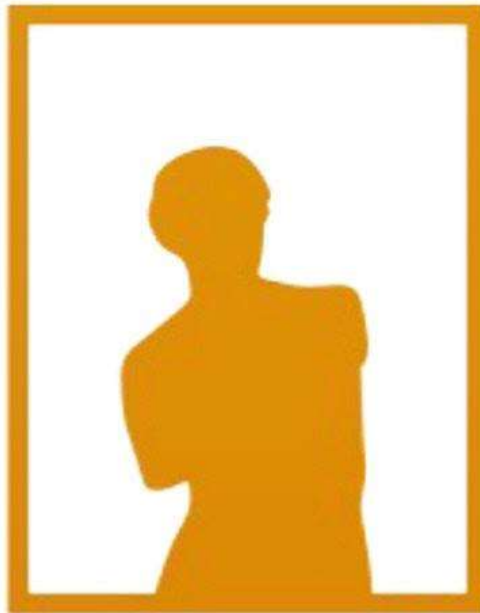
For example I would suggest going over **all the words of the vocab list** once a week or more!



Assuming a word takes 30 seconds to go over - going through every word will only take you 2:30 hours. And you could easily space that out over 2 days. Do it in the card home, on the way to school, on the weekend; before bed etc.

11.) Don't sabotage yourself:

Don't look up every word or look up a premade translation when working. This doesn't make you learn and you are only cheating yourself. In your GCSE you won't have resources other than you and your mind. Put in the work and you will be able to get a top grade. Don't sabotage yourself by being lazy.



If you liked this free how to guide by [@studyclassics.co.uk](https://www.instagram.com/studyclassics) ©,
Please contact us and leave us a review!
Website: studyclassics.co.uk
Email: admin@studyclassics.co.uk
Instagram: [@studyclassics](https://www.instagram.com/studyclassics)

