

LATIN PROVERBS

A

Ab imo pectore.
Abyssus abyssum invocat
Acta est fabula.

Ad acta.
Ad augusta per angusta.
Ad hoc.
Ad honorem.
Ad libitum.
Ad nauseam.
Alea iacta est.

Alter ego.
Alter ipse amicus.
Anguis in herba.
Animus facit nobilem.
Ars gratia artis.
Ars longa, vita brevis.
Asinus asinum fricat.

Audiat et altera pars!
Aut inveniam viam aut faciam.
Ave Caesar morituri te salutant!

Bona fide.
Bene qui latuit, bene vixit.

Caeci caecos ducentes

Carpe diem
Casus belli

Caveat emptor

Cedant arma togae
Ceteris paribus

Clara pacta, boni amici
Cogito, ergo sum
Commune naufragium dulce

Concordia res parvae crescent
Conditio sine qua non
Corpus delicti
Crudelius est quam mori
semper timere mortem

From the bottom of the chest (heart).
Hell calls hell. One misstep leads to another.
Drama has been acted out.
(These words announced the end of a performance in a Roman theatre.
Emperor August said these words at his deathbed.)
To archives. Not actual any more.
To high places by narrow roads.
Exactly for that. Also: Not prearranged, informal.
In honour. Honour not baring any material advantage.
Freely. Without restraint, as desired.
To the point of being disgusted.
The dice have been cast. The decision has been made.
Supposingly words of Julius Caesar as he was going to cross river of
Rubicon with his army on a way toward Rome. For an army leader it
was forbidden to cross this river with army, so that moment was a start
of civil war.
Another I. Soul mate, close friend.
A friend is another self.
A snake in the grass. A treacherous person.
The spirit makes (human) noble.
Art for art's sake. Art has its own sense.
The skill (of medicine) is long, the life (of patient and doctor) is short.
The donkey scratches the donkey. Stupid and conceited people flatter
each other about qualities they do not possess.
Let us hear the opposite side!
I will either find a way or I will make one.
Hail, Caesar, those who are about to die salute you!
(According to Suatonius, words said by Gladiators.)

B

In good faith.
One who has lived well has lived unnoticed.

C

Blind are led by the blind. Leaders are not more knowledgeable than
the ones they lead.
Seize the day.
The occasion of war. An event or action that (allegedly) justifies a war
or conflict.
Let the buyer beware. Buyer must ensure that goods about to be
purchased are free from defects.
Let arms yield to the toga. Let violence give place to law.
Other things (being) equal. All variables other than the ones being
studied are assumed to be constant.
Clear agreements, good friends.
I think, therefore I am.
Common shipwreck is sweet. Common traumas feel good and connect
people.
Work together to accomplish more.
Condition without which not. An essential condition or requirement.
The body of a crime. The facts of a crime.

It is crueller to be always afraid of dying than to die.

Cuivis dolori remedium est patientia
Cum grano salis

Cum laude magnum
Curriculum vitae

Damnant quod non intelligunt
De facto
De iure. (De jure)
De gustibus non est disputandum
De mortuis nil nisi bene
Deus ex machina

Dimidium facti qui coepit habet
Divide et impera.

Do ut des
Docendo discimus
Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori
Dulcius ex asperis
Dum spiro, spero
Dura lex, sed lex

Eram quod es, eris quod sum.
Errare humanum est, in errore
perservare stultum.
Et tu, Brute!

Eventus stultorum magister

Ex abundancia cordis, os loquitor
Ex abrupto
Ex cathedra
Ex gratia
Ex libris
Exempli gratia (e.g.)

Faber quisque fortunae suae.
Facta, non verba!
Falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus
Fama volat
Fames est optimus coquus
Felix qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas
Festina lente!
Fiat justitia, ruat caelum
Fluctuat nec mergitur
Forsan et haec olim meminisse iuvabit

Patience is the cure for all suffer.
With a grain of salt. Take something not literally, but with due
consideration.
With great success.
The run of life.

D

They (people) condemn what they do not understand.
In fact.
By law. According to law.
Tastes are not to be argued.
(Say) nothing but good about the dead.
The god from a device. Sudden, unexpected turnover.
Lucotion from Greek dramas, in which often at some point gods appear
to resolve unsolvable situation in a sudden, unexpected way.
He who has begun has the job half done.
Part and rule
Roman maxima of ruling the subdued nations.
Give to obtain (something back).
Teach in order to learn. We learn by teaching.
It is sweet and proper to die for one's country.
Through difficulty, sweetness.
As long as I breathe, I hope.
The law is hard, but it is law.

E

(grave inscription) I was what you are, you will be what I am.
It is human to make a mistake, it is stupid to persist on
it.
You too, Brutus! Even you have betrayed me!
The exclamation of Julius Caesar in his last moments, as he noticed his
adopted son Brutus among his murderers.
Events are the teacher of the stupid persons. Stupid people learn by
experience, bright people calculate what to do.
From the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.
Without preparation.
From the chair. With authority (without argumentation).
By moral (not legal) obligation.
From the library (of).
For example.

F

Each man (is) the maker of his own fortune.
Deeds, not words!
False in one thing, false in all.
Rumor flies (travels fast).
Hunger is the best cook.
Happy is the one who can learn the causes/reasons of things.
Rush slowly! Do not hasten!
Let justice be done, even though the heavens collapse.
Rocks but does not sink. It is tossed by the waves but it does not sink.
Perhaps one day it shall be good to remember even these (tragic)
things.

Fortes Fortuna adjuvat	Fortune aids the brave.
Fortitudine vincimus	By endurance we conquer.
Fortiter in re, suaviter in modo	Resolutely in deed, gentle in manner.
Fortuna amicos parat, inopia amicos probat.	The fortune is preparing friends, the abundance is testing them.

G

Gloriosum est iniurias oblivisci. (NK)	It is glorious to forget the injustice.
Gutta cavat lapidem (non vi, sed saepe . cadendo)	The water drop drills stone (not by the force, but by falling often). The endurance can overcome the obstacle even without the force.

H

Hannibal ante portas!	Hannibal is at the doors! The enemy/danger is at the doors! Exclamation of frightened citizens of Rome as enemy army under Hannibal approached the city of Rome.
Hic Rhodus, hic salta!	Here's Rhodus, here jump! Show your skills now! In Esopus' fable the answer to the boaster that was boasting with a long jump that he made on Rhodus.
Historia est vitae magistra. Hoc natura est insitum, ut quem timueris, hunc semper oderis Homines, dum docent, discunt Homo homini lupus Homo sum, humani nihil a me alienum puto.	The history is the tutor of life. It's an innate thing to always hate the one we've learnt to fear. While men teach they learn. Man is a wolf to man. I am human, therefore nothing human is strange to me.

I

Idem velle atque idem nolle, ea demum firma amicitia est	Desiring the same things and disliking the same things, that is what true friendship is.
In dubio pro reo.	In doubt in favor of the accused. If there is a doubt about guiltiness, the judgement has to be in favour of the accused.
In flagrante delicto	While the crime is blazing. Caught in the act.
In medias res.	In the midst of things.
In medio stat virtus	Virtue stands in the middle. Virtue is in the moderate, not the extreme position.
In memoriam.	In memory (of).
In vino veritas.	The truth is in wine. A drunk person tells the truth.
Inter arma silent leges.	In time of war, laws are silent.
Inter arma silent Musae.	In time of war, muses (arts) are silent.
Inter caecos regnat strabo	Among blinds the squinting rules.
Ius primae noctis.	The right for the first night. Belongs to the feudal period when the knights had the right to be the first to sexual intercourse the peasants' new married (virgin) wives.

L

Lapsus calami	Error of the pen.
Lapsus linguae	Error of the tongue.
Lapsus memoriae	Error of the memory.
Lupus in fabula	Wolf in the story. Speaking of the devil.

M

Malum quidem nullum esse sine aliquo bono	There is, to be sure, no evil without something good.
Manus manum lavat	One hand washes the other. The favor for the favor.
Margaritas ante porcos. Pearls before swine.	To give something valuable to someone not respecting it.
Mea culpa.	By my guilt.

Medicus curat, natura sanat.
Mens sana in corpore sano

Mundus vult decipi, ergo decipiatur

Natura in minima maxima.
Navigare necesse est.
Nemo ante mortem beatus

Nemo gratis mendax
Nemo me impune lacessit
Nemo propheta in patria sua
Nemo saltat sobrius
Nemo sine vitio est
Nihil Illegitimi carborundum
Nil novi sub sole
Nocebo.

Noli turbare circulos meos!

Nomen est omen.
Non bis in idem

Non omne quod nitet aurum est

Non plus ultra! (Nec plus ultra!)
Non scholae sed vitae discimus
Non sequitur.
Non uno die Roma aedificata est
Nosce te ipsum!
Nota bene.
Nulla avaritia sine poena est. (Seneca)
Nulla dies sine linea.
(Apeles, Greek painter)
Nullum crimen sine lege, nulla
poena sine lege

Occasio aegre offertur, facile amittitur
Occasio facit furem
Omnia mea mecum porto
Omnia munda mundis
Omnia vincit amor

Pacta sunt servanda
Panem et circenses
Parva scintilla saepe magnam
flamam excitat.
Pecunia non olet

Pede poena claudo

The physician heals, nature convalesces.
A sound mind in a sound body. Both physical and mental health are necessary.

The world wants to be deceived, so let it be deceived!

N

Nature is the greatest in the smallest things.
To sail is necessary.
Nobody is blessed before his death. We never know what is future preparing for us!
No man lies freely. A person with no reason to lie is telling the truth.
No one strikes me with impunity.
No one is considered a prophet in his hometown/homeland.
No man dances sober.
No one is without fault.
Do not let the bastards get you down.
Nothing new under the sun.
I will harm. Medical expression for remedies with no medical effect, which worsen one's medical condition only because one believes they do.

Do not upset my circles!

Supposedly said by Archimedes in deep thoughts over geometrical shapes drawn in the sand in the moment when the soldier of the conquering Roman army broke into his house and slayed him.

The name is the sign.

Not twice for the same thing. No man can be tried a second time on the same charge.

Not everything that is shining is gold. Not everything that looks beautiful is good.

Nothing above that!

We learn not for school but for life.

It does not follow. Incorrect statement.

Rome was not built in one day (either).

Know thyself.

Observe carefully.

There is no avarice without penalty.

Not a day without a line. Do something every day!

No crime and no punishment without a (pre-existing) law.

O

Opportunity is offered with difficulty, lost with ease.

Opportunity makes a thief.

All that is mine, I carry with me. My wisdom is my greatest wealth.

Everything is pure to pure ones.

Love conquers all.

P

Agreements should be obeyed.

Bread and circuses. Food and games to keep people happy.

The small spark often initiates a large flame.

Money has no smell. Money doesn't stink.

In aim to fill depleted state funds, Vespasianus introduced among other things a new tax on public lavatories. When objected by his son Titus, Vespasianus held a coin collected under that tax law to his sons nose and asked him if it smelled.

Punishment comes limping. Retribution comes slowly, but surely.

Per aspera ad astra. (Per ardua ad astra.)
Per se.
Persona non grata.
Philosophum non facit barba
Placebo.

Post tenebras lux
Primum non nocere
Primus inter pares.

Quae nocent, saepe docent.

Quam bene vivas refert, non quam diu.
Qui me amat, amet et canem meum.
Qui multum habet, plus cupit
Qui pro innocente dicit, satis est eloquens
Quid pro quo

Quidquid agis, prudenter agas et respice finem!
Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?
Quod differtur, non aufertur.

Quod erat demonstrandum. (QED)
Quod licet Iovi non licet bovi.
Quod natura non sunt turpia.
Quot homines, tot sententiae.

Repetitio est mater studiorum.

Scientia non habet inimicum nisp ignorantem
Scio me nihil scire
Scire tuum nihil est, nisi te scire hoc sciat alter.

Semper inops quicumque cupit
Si Deus pro nobis quis contra nos.
Si fractum non sit, noli id reficere.
Si sapis, sis apus.
Si tacuisses, philosophus mansisses.
Si vis pacem, para bellum

Sic itur ad astra
Sic transit gloria mundi.
Sine die
Sine sole sileo
Sol omnibus lucet
Status quo.
Stultorum infinitus est numerus
Summum ius, summa iniuria.

Through the thorns to the stars. (Through the struggle to the stars.)
By/of itself.
An unwelcome person.
A beard doesn't make a philosopher.
I will please. Medical expression for remedies with no medical effect, which improve one's medical condition only because one believes they do.
After darkness, light.
First, do no harm.
First among equals.

Q

What hurts, often instructs.
One learns by bitter/adverse experience.
How well you live makes a difference, not how long.
Who loves me, loves my dog too.
He who has much desires more.
He who speaks for the innocent is eloquent enough.
Something for something. A reciprocal exchange, something given in compensation, esp. an advantage.
Whatever you do, do cautiously, and look to the end.
Who watches the watchmen?
That which is postponed is not dropped. Inevitable is yet to happen.
Said by Sir Thomas More, when a false accusation against him made by a new chancellor was at first dropped. Later he was executed.
What was to be demonstrated. Text in the end of demonstration.
What Jupiter (supreme God) is allowed to do, cattle (people) are not.
What is natural cannot be bad.
As many men as many opinions.

R

Repeating is the mother of learning.

S

Science has no enemies but the ignorants.
I know that I know nothing. Certain knowledge cannot be obtained.
Your knowledge is nothing when no one else knows that you know it.
Whoever desires is always poor.
If God is with us who is against us.
If it isn't broken, don't fix it.
If you are wise, be a bee.
If you had kept your silence, you would have stayed a philosopher.
If you want peace, prepare for the war. The peace is least threaten, when the state is prepared for the defence.
Thus you shall go to the stars. Thus is immortality gained.
Thus passes the glory of the world. The world's glory is transitory.
Without a date. Without a date limit. Unknown period of time.
Without the sun I'm silent.
The sun shines upon all.
The present state of affairs.
Infinite is the number of fools.
Highest law, greatest injustice.

T

Tabula rasa.

A clean slate. Person that knows nothing.

Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis.	Times are changing, and we are changing within them.
Tempus fugit	Time flies.
Terra incognita.	An unknown land. Unexplored by mankind.
Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes	I fear the Greeks, even when they bring gifts. Do not trust to the kindness of a foe.
	According to Vergil, these were the last words of prophet Laocoon, warning the Trojans about the presented Trojan Horse. Laocoon was strangled by the monster from the sea and his warning was disregarded.
	U
Ubi bene, ibi patria	Where you feel good, there is your home.
Ubi concordia, ibi victoria	Where is the unity, there is the victory.
Ubi maior, minor cessat	The weak (minor) capitulates before the strong (major).
Una hirundo non facit ver	One Swallow does not make Summer.
Ut ameris, ama!	To be loved, love!
Uva uvam videndo varia fit	A grape changes color in seeing another grape. A bad/good friend makes you a bad/good person.
	V
Vade mecum.	Come with me. A constant companion.
Vae victis!	Woe to the vanquished!
	After he defeated the Romans in 390 BC, the leader of the Gauls Brennus agreed that for payment of a thousand pounds of gold, he would withdraw his army. According to Livy, when the Romans complained that sets of weights for weighing out the gold brought by Gauls were too heavy, one of the Gaulish warriors tossed his sword into the balance pan, uttering these words.
Varietas delectat.	The diversity is delighting.
Veni, vidi, vici!	I came, I saw, I conquered. Easy accomplishment.
Verba movent, exempla trahunt.	Words move people, examples draw/compel them. Deeds, not words, give the example.
Verba volant, scripta manent	The words fly away, the writings remain.
Verbum sapienti satis est	A word to the wise is sufficient. Enough said.
Veritas numquam perit	Truth never perishes.
Verum et factum convertuntur.	The true and the made are interchangeable. One can know with certainty only what he have created himself.
Vice versa.	Turn in place. The other way round.
Vis maior.	Higher force.
Vitam regit fortuna, non sapientia.	Fortune, not wisdom, rules lives.
Vivere disce, cogita mori	Learn to live; Remember death.
Vox populi, vox Dei	The voice of the people is the voice of God. Public opinion is obligatory.
Vulnerant omnes, ultima necat	Every (hour) wounds, the last kills.
Vulpem pilum mutat, non mores	A fox may change its hair, not its tricks. People change behaviour but not their aims.