

PART I.

SOUNDS, ACCENT, QUANTITY.

THE ALPHABET.

1. The Latin Alphabet is the same as the English, except that the Latin has no **w**.

1. **K** occurs only in *Kalendae* and a few other words; **y** and **z** were introduced from the Greek about 50 B.C., and occur only in foreign words—chiefly Greek.

2. With the Romans, who regularly employed only capitals, **I** served both as vowel and consonant; so also **V**. For us, however, it is more convenient to distinguish the vowel and consonant sounds, and to write **i** and **u** for the former, **j** and **v** for the latter. Yet some scholars prefer to employ **i** and **u** in the function of consonants as well as vowels.

CLASSIFICATION OF SOUNDS.

2. 1. The Vowels are **a, e, i, o, u, y**. The other letters are Consonants. The Diphthongs are **ae, oe, ei, au, eu, ui**.

2. Consonants are further subdivided into Mutes, Liquids, Nasals, and Spirants.

3. The Mutes are **p, t, c, k, q; b, d, g; ph, th, ch**. Of these,—

a) **p, t, c, k, q** are voiceless,¹ *i.e.* sounded *without* voice or vibration of the vocal cords.

b) **b, d, g** are voiced,² *i.e.* sounded *with* vibration of the vocal cords.

¹ For 'voiceless,' 'surd,' 'hard,' or 'tenuis' are sometimes used.

² For 'voiced,' 'sonant,' 'soft,' or 'media' are sometimes used.

c) **ph, th, ch** are aspirates. These are confined almost exclusively to words derived from the Greek, and were equivalent to **p + h, t + h, c + h**, *i.e.* to the corresponding voiceless mutes with a following breath, as in Eng. *loop-hole, hot-house, block-house*.

4. The Mutes admit of classification also as

Labials,	p, b, ph.
Dentals (or Linguals),	t, d, th.
Gutturals (or Palatals),	c, k, q, g, ch.

5. The Liquids are **l, r**. These sounds were voiced.

6. The Nasals are **m, n**. These were voiced. Besides its ordinary sound, **n**, when followed by a guttural mute, also had another sound,—that of **ng** in *sing*,—the so-called *n adulterinum*; as,—

anceps, double, pronounced angeps.

7. The Spirants (sometimes called Fricatives) are **f, s, h**. These were voiceless.

8. The Semivowels are **j** and **v**. These were voiced.

9. Double Consonants are **x** and **z**. Of these, **x** was equivalent to **cs**, while the equivalence of **z** is uncertain. See § 3. 3.

10. The following table will indicate the relations of the consonant sounds:—

	VOICELESS.	VOICED.	ASPIRATES.		
Mutes,	{	p,	b,	ph,	(Labials).
		t,	d,	th,	(Dentals).
		c, k, q,	g,	ch,	(Gutturals).
Liquids,		l, r,			
Nasals,		m, n,			
Spirants,	{	f,			(Labial).
		s,			(Dental).
		h,			(Guttural).
Semivowels,		j, v.			

a. The Double Consonants, **x** and **z**, being compound sounds, do not admit of classification in the above table.

SOUNDS OF THE LETTERS.

3. The following pronunciation (often called Roman) is substantially that employed by the Romans at the height of their civilization; *i.e.* roughly, from 50 B.C. to 50 A.D.

1. Vowels.

ā as in <i>father</i> ;	ǎ as in the first syllable of <i>ahd</i> ;
ē as in <i>they</i> ;	ě as in <i>met</i> ;
ī as in <i>machine</i> ;	ĩ as in <i>pin</i> ;
ō as in <i>note</i> ;	ǫ as in <i>obey, melody</i> ;
ū as in <i>rude</i> ;	ũ as in <i>put</i> ;
y like French <i>u</i> , German <i>ü</i> .	

2. Diphthongs.

ae like <i>ai</i> in <i>aisle</i> ;	eu with its two elements, <i>ě</i> and <i>ũ</i> , pronounced in rapid succession;
oe like <i>oi</i> in <i>oil</i> ;	ui occurs almost exclusively in <i>cui</i> and <i>huic</i> . These words are pronounced as though written <i>kwee</i> and <i>wheek</i> .
ei as in <i>rein</i> ;	
au like <i>ow</i> in <i>how</i> ;	

3. Consonants.

- b, d, f, h, k, l, m, n, p, qu are pronounced as in English, except that **bs**, **bt** are pronounced *ps*, *pt*.
- c is always pronounced as *k*.
- t is always a plain *t*, never with the sound of *sh* as in Eng. *oration*.
- g always as in *get*; when **ngu** precedes a vowel, **gu** has the sound of *gw*, as in *anguis*, *languidus*.
- j has the sound of *y* as in *yet*.
- r was probably slightly trilled with the tip of the tongue.
- s always voiceless as in *sin*; in **suādeō**, **suāvis**, **suēsoō**, and in compounds and derivatives of these words, **su** has the sound of *sw*.
- v like *w*.
- x always like *ks*; never like Eng. *gz* or *z*.
- z uncertain in sound; possibly like Eng. *zd*, possibly like *z*. The latter sound is recommended.

The aspirates **ph**, **ch**, **th** were pronounced very nearly like our stressed Eng. *p*, *c*, *t*—so nearly so, that, for practical purposes, the latter sounds suffice.

Doubled letters, like **ll**, **mm**, **tt**, *etc.*, should be so pronounced that both members of the combination are distinctly articulated.

SYLLABLES.

4. There are as many syllables in a Latin word as there are separate vowels and diphthongs.

In the division of words into syllables,—

1. A single consonant is joined to the following vowel; as, **vo-lat, ge-rit, pe-rit, a-dest.**

2. Doubled consonants, like **tt, ss, etc.**, are always separated; as, **vit-ta, mis-sus.**

3. Other combinations of two or more consonants are regularly separated, and the first consonant of the combination is joined with the preceding vowel; as, **ma-gis-trī, dig-nus, mōn-strum, sis-te-re.**

4. An exception to Rule 3 occurs when the two consonants consist of a mute followed by **l** or **r** (**pl, cl, tl; pr, cr, tr, etc.**). In such cases both consonants are regularly joined to the following vowel; as, **a-grī, vo-lu-cris, pa-tris, mā-tris.** Yet if the **l** or **r** introduces the second part of a compound, the two consonants are separated; as, **ab-rumpō, ad-lātus.**

5. The double consonant **x** is joined to the preceding vowel; as, **ax-is, tēx-ī.**

QUANTITY.

5. A. Quantity of Vowels.

A vowel is *long* or *short* according to the length of time required for its pronunciation. No absolute rule can be given for determining the quantity of Latin vowels. This knowledge must be gained, in large measure, by experience; but the following principles are of aid:—

1. **A vowel is long,**¹—

a) before **nf** or **ns**; as, **īnfāns, īnferior, cōnsūmō, cēnseō, īnsum.**

b) when the result of contraction; as, **nīlum** for **nihilum.**

2. **A vowel is short,**—

a) before **nt, nā**; as, **amant, amandus.** A few exceptions occur in compounds whose first member has a long vowel; as, **nōn-dum** (**nōn dūm**).

b) before another vowel, or **h**; as, **meus, trahō.** Some exceptions occur, chiefly in proper names derived from the Greek; as, **Aenēās.**

¹ In this book, long vowels are indicated by a horizontal line above them; as, **ē, ī, ō, etc.** Vowels not thus marked are short. Occasionally a curve is set above short vowels; as, **ě, ŭ.**

B. Quantity of Syllables.

Syllables are distinguished as *long* or *short* according to the length of time required for their pronunciation.

1. A syllable is long,¹ —

- a) if it contains a long vowel; as, *māter, rēgnum, dīus*.
- b) if it contains a diphthong; as, *causae, foedus*.
- c) if it contains a short vowel followed by *x, z*, or any two consonants (except a mute with *l* or *r*); as, *axis, gaza, restō*.

2. A syllable is short, if it contains a short vowel followed by a vowel or by a single consonant; as, *mea, amat*.

3. Sometimes a syllable varies in quantity, *viz.* when its vowel is short and is followed by a mute with *l* or *r*, *i.e.* by *pl, cl, tl; pr, cr, tr, etc.*; as, *āgrī, volūcris*.² Such syllables are called *common*. In prose they were regularly short, but in verse they might be treated as long at the option of the poet.

NOTE. — These distinctions of *long* and *short* are not arbitrary and artificial, but are purely natural. Thus, a syllable containing a short vowel followed by two consonants, as *ng*, is long, because such a syllable requires *more time* for its pronunciation; while a syllable containing a short vowel followed by one consonant is short, because it takes *less time* to pronounce it. In case of the common syllables, the mute and the liquid blend so easily as to produce a combination which takes scarcely more time than a single consonant. Yet by separating the two elements (as *ag-rī*) the poets were able to use such syllables as long.

ACCENT.

6. 1. Words of two syllables are accented upon the first; as, *tēgit, mōrem*.

2. Words of more than two syllables are accented upon the penult (next to the last) if that is a long syllable, otherwise upon the antepenult (second from the last); as, *amāvī, amāntis, miserum*.

3. When the enclitics *-que, -ne, -ve, -ce, -met, -dum* are appended to words, if the syllable preceding the enclitic is long (either originally or as a result of adding the enclitic) it is accented; as, *miserōque, homínisque*. But if the syllable still remains short after the enclitic has been added, it is not accented unless the word originally took the accent on the antepenult. Thus, *pórtaque*; but *miseráque*.

¹ To avoid confusion, the quantity of *syllables* is not indicated by any sign.

² But if the *l* or *r* introduces the second part of a compound, the preceding syllable is always long; as, *abruppō*.

4. Sometimes the final -e of -ne and -ce disappears, but without affecting the accent; as, *tantōn*, *istfc*, *illūc*, *vidén* (for *vidēsne*).

5. In *utrāque*, *each*, and *plērāque*, *most*, -que is not properly an enclitic; yet these words accent the penult, owing to the influence of their other cases, — *utérque*, *utrúmque*, *plērúmque*.

VOWEL CHANGES.¹

7. 1. In Compounds, —

a) ě before a single consonant becomes ĭ; as, —
colligō for *con-legō*.

b) ǎ before a single consonant becomes ĭ; as, —
adigō for *ad-agō*.

c) ǎ before two consonants becomes ě; as, —
expers for *ex-pars*.

d) ae becomes ĭ; as, —
conquīrō for *con-quaerō*.

e) au becomes ū, sometimes ō; as, —
conclūdō for *con-claudō*;
explōdō for *ex-plaudō*.

2. **Contraction.** Concurrent vowels were frequently contracted into one long vowel. The first of the two vowels regularly prevailed; as, —

<i>trēs</i> for <i>tre-es</i> ;	<i>cōpia</i> for <i>co-opia</i> ;
<i>mālō</i> for <i>ma(v)elō</i> ;	<i>cōgō</i> for <i>co-agō</i> ;
<i>amāstī</i> for <i>amā(v)istī</i> ;	<i>cōmō</i> for <i>co-emō</i> ;
<i>dēbeō</i> for <i>dē(h)abeō</i> ;	<i>jūnior</i> for <i>ju(v)enior</i> .
<i>nīl</i> for <i>nihil</i> ;	

3. **Parasitic Vowels.** In the environment of liquids and nasals a parasitic vowel sometimes develops; as, —

vinculum for earlier *vinclum*.

So *perīculum*, *saeculum*.

4. **Syncope.** Sometimes a vowel drops out by syncope; as, —
ārdor for *āridor* (compare *āridus*);
valdē for *validē* (compare *validus*).

¹ Only the simplest and most obvious of these are here treated.

CONSONANT CHANGES.¹

8. 1. **Rhotacism.** An original *s* between vowels became *r*; as, —
arbōs, Gen. *arboris* (for *arbosis*);
genus, Gen. *generis* (for *genesis*);
dirimō (for *dis-emō*).

2. **dt, tt, ts** each give *s* or *ss*; as, —
pēnsūm for *pend-tūm*;
versūm for *vert-tūm*;
mīles for *mīlet-s*;
sessus for *sedtus*;
passus for *pattus*.

3. Final consonants were often omitted; as, —
cor for *cord*;
lac for *lact*.

4. **Assimilation of Consonants.** Consonants are often assimilated to a following sound. Thus: *accurrō* (*adc-*); *aggerō* (*adg-*); *asserō* (*ads-*); *allātus* (*adl-*); *apportō* (*adp-*); *attulī* (*adt-*); *arrīdeō* (*adr-*); *afferō* (*adf-*); *occurrō* (*obc-*); *suppōnō* (*subp-*); *offerō* (*obf-*); *corruō* (*comr-*); *collātus* (*coml-*); *etc.*

5. **Partial Assimilation.** Sometimes the assimilation is only partial. Thus: —

a) *b* before *s* or *t* becomes *p*; as, —
scrīpsī (*scrīb-sī*), *scrīptum* (*scrīb-tum*).

b) *g* before *s* or *t* becomes *c*; as, —
āctus (*āg-tus*).

c) *m* before a dental or guttural becomes *n*; as, —
eundem (*eum-dem*); *prīnceps* (*prīm-ceps*).

PECULIARITIES OF ORTHOGRAPHY.

9. Many words have variable orthography.

1. Sometimes the different forms belong to different periods of the language. Thus, *quom*, *voltus*, *volnus*, *volt*, *etc.*, were the prevail-

¹ Only the simplest and most obvious of these are here treated.

ing forms almost down to the Augustan age; after that, **cum, vultus, vulnus, vult, etc.** So **optumus, maxumus, lubet, libidō, etc.**, down to about the same era; later, **optimus, maximus, libet, libidō, etc.**

2. In some words the orthography varies at one and the same period of the language. Examples are **expectō, expectō; existō, existō; epistula, epistola; adulēscēns, adolēscēns; paulus, paulus; cottīdiē, cotīdiē;** and, particularly, prepositional compounds, which often made a concession to the etymology in the spelling; as, —

ad-gerō	or aggerō;	ad-serō	or asserō;
ad-liciō	or alliciō;	in-lātus	or illātus;
ad-rogāns	or arrogāns;	sub-moveō	or summoveō;

and many others.

3. Compounds of **jaciō** were usually written **ēiciō, dēiciō, adiciō, obiciō, etc.**, but were probably pronounced as though written **adjiciō, objiciō, etc.**

4. Adjectives and nouns in **-quus, -quum; -vus, -vum; -uus, -uum** preserved the earlier forms in **-quos, -quom; -vos, -vom; -uos, -uom**, down through the Ciceronian age; as, **antīquos, antīquom; saevos; perpetuos; equos; servos.** Similarly verbs in the 3d plural present indicative exhibit the terminations **-quont, -quontur; -vont, -vontur; -uont, -uontur**, for the same period; as, **relinquont, loquontur; vīvont, metuont.**

The older spelling, while generally followed in editions of Plautus and Terence, has not yet been adopted in our prose texts.