



## Living Latin



When the Romans conquered a new area, they made people learn their language—Latin—and use it to conduct business. After a while people stopped speaking their own languages and just used Latin instead. Even after the Roman Empire collapsed, people continued speaking Latin. Over the centuries the Latin spoken in different areas changed. Gradually, new languages developed. They were based on Latin, but they varied from region to region. These languages include French, Portuguese, Italian, Spanish, and Romanian. Look at the words for the numbers one to five below, and you'll see that these languages are related.

	<u>Latin</u>	<u>Italian</u>	<u>French</u>	<u>Spanish</u>	<u>Portuguese</u>	<u>Romanian</u>
1.	<i>unus</i>	<i>uno</i>	<i>un</i>	<i>uno</i>	<i>un</i>	<i>un</i>
2.	<i>duo</i>	<i>due</i>	<i>deux</i>	<i>dos</i>	<i>dois</i>	<i>doi</i>
3.	<i>tres</i>	<i>tre</i>	<i>trois</i>	<i>tres</i>	<i>trez</i>	<i>trei</i>
4.	<i>quattor</i>	<i>quattro</i>	<i>quatre</i>	<i>cuatro</i>	<i>quatro</i>	<i>patru</i>
5.	<i>quinque</i>	<i>cinque</i>	<i>cinq</i>	<i>cinco</i>	<i>cince</i>	<i>cinci</i>

Because these languages grew out of the language of the Romans, we call them **Romance languages**. Even though English isn't a Romance language, a lot of our words are based on Latin. You already know a lot of Latin-based words. For example, *lex* means "law" in Latin. The English words "legal" and "legislature" come from it. The Latin word *inter* means "between." The English words "intervene" and "interval" come from it.

Try to recognize the Latin roots for words. They can help you guess the meaning of words you don't know. For example, if you know that the Latin word *magna* means "big," you could guess that "magnificent" has something to do with being big.



A Roman classroom

(continued)



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Try to match the Latin words on the left with their English meanings on the right.

- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. <i>per</i>        | (a) earth     |
| 2. <i>respondere</i> | (b) to sail   |
| 3. <i>terra</i>      | (c) across    |
| 4. <i>video</i>      | (d) through   |
| 5. <i>trans</i>      | (e) to have   |
| 6. <i>habere</i>     | (f) woman     |
| 7. <i>movere</i>     | (g) fight     |
| 8. <i>femina</i>     | (h) I see     |
| 9. <i>pugna</i>      | (i) to answer |
| 10. <i>navigare</i>  | (j) to move   |

Look carefully at the Latin words in the list above. How many English words can you think of that are based on these words? List as many English words as you can for each Latin word.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____
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