

LATIN MOTTOS II

More Latin Phrases that Are Important to Know

There are hundreds of Latin sayings or "mottos" that are used regularly by literate English speakers in all walks of life. These sayings have endured because they express ideas better than rival phrases in modern languages. They are well stated, short, and precise. These phrases have remained part of English language and civilization due to their historical significance, their widespread use, and their clear expression of universal concepts. They just say things better than other phrases. And because they carry so much historical weight and wisdom, it is often handier to use Latin to express certain ideas—explaining the implications of a Latin motto could take a whole paragraph or more in English. Sometimes it's just easier and better communication to use Latin!

It can be challenging to understand aspects of Western culture without knowing some of these sayings. We want students to know these sayings is because memory is how we transmit virtues and values and participate in our shared culture. Students that recognize, understand, and can use Latin mottos will be several steps ahead of peers that are not aware of them. Here is an example of that.

It takes knowledge to gain more knowledge. The goal of having students learn these sayings is to help them to learn more and more deeply. These sayings have been deemed to be some ideas that matter. If students don't have some historical ideas like these in mind they will not have as many tools to help them determine what is important and what is trivial.

Classical Latin Mottos: These are well-known phrases that come from ancient Rome, the medieval world, and from Latin used in modern times. They can help make you wiser and can enrich your understanding of your own culture. For more than 1,000 years after the fall of Rome, Latin continued to be the language of science, literature, politics, law, philosophy and theology. Latin was the language of the educated for more than 2,000 years and the educated still use and recognize many parts of it today.

Christian Mottos: The church continued using Latin for centuries after the fall of the Roman Empire. Latin let the best and the brightest from all over the world communicate with one another. Knowing and understanding these Latin expressions will give students a deeper and richer understanding of Western culture and the Christian faith. These expressions have been used for hundreds of years and remain relevant in discussions about theology, psychology, history, government, philosophy and ethics today. Students that do not have familiarity with Christian Latin expressions will have an impoverished understanding of the world and the historical Christian faith, which is followed by over 2.6 billion people—the largest religion in the world.

Mottos as "Passwords": In Latin class we use mottos as **passwords** which means students will say the weekly assigned Latin phrase in order to enter the classroom. This is a light-hearted way to: 1) begin the class before it formally begins, 2) to personally greet each student, and 3) to get students thinking about Latin. This practice gives students repetitions in saying and hearing these phrases. It cements them into their memories. Find out more about passwords here.

Passwords may be introduced with the phrase: "Secretum habeo..." I have a secret...

- 1. What are Latin mottos?
- 2. What are some characteristics of Latin mottos?
- 3. Why have Latin mottos stayed part of the English language and culture?
- 4. What are two sources of Latin mottos we are using in this class?
- 5. How can knowing Latin phrases help a person in 21st century America?
- 6. What are some Latin mottos that you already know?



LATIN MOTTOS II

Green Highlighting Yellow Highlighting

Red Print Grey Highlighting Blue Print

No Highlighting

= Christian mottos

= Mottos by or about Gaius Julius Caesar

= Mottos by or about other Roman Emperors or the Roman Republic

= Mottos by Virgil

= Mottos from Logic, Philosophy or Education

= Other well-known Latin mottos

I.	Senatus Populusque	Romanus	The Senate and the People of Rome
II.	Mens sana in corpor	e sano	A healthy mind in a healthy body
III.	Incurvatus in se.		Curved inward on oneself.
IV.	Non sequitur		It does not follow.
V.	Timeo Danaos et dor	na ferentes	I fear Greeks, even when they bring gifts.
VI.	Sic semper tyrannis	\$	Thus always to tyrants.
VII.	Simil iustus et pecca	<mark>tor</mark>	Simultaneously righteous and sinner.
			At the same time just and sinner.
VIII.	Aut viam inveniam a	ut faciam.	I will either find a way or make one.
IX.	Hannibal ad portas!		Hannibal is at the gates!
X.	Sola fide. Sol	a gratia.	Sola scriptura.
		ce alone.	Scripture alone.
XI.	Omnia vincit amor.	Omnia vincit lab	oor. Omnia vincit veritas.
	Love conquers all.	Work conquers all.	Truth conquers all.
XII.	Hoc est corpus meur	<mark>n.</mark>	This is my body.
XIII.	Gloria in excelsis De	0	
XIII.			Glory to God in the highest!
AIV.	Felix dies natalis Cri	Su	Merry Christmas!
XV.	Divide et impera		Divide and rule; / Divide and conquer
XVI.	In hoc signo vinces		In this sign you will conquer.
XVII.	panem et circense	S	Bread and circuses
XVIII	festina lente.		Hurry slowly. / Make haste slowly.
XIX.	Ad absurdum.	Ad infinitum.	Ad nauseum.
	To the point of absurdity.	To infinity.	To the point of nausea.
XX.	Si sapis, sis apis.		If you are wise, be a bee.
XXI.	The first 10 digits of	<i>Pi</i> in Latin.	III . I IV I V IX II VI V III
XXII.	Gallia est omnis divi	sa in partes tres	All Gaul is divided into three parts
XXIII	. Translatores sunt t	raditores.	Translators are traitors.
XXIV	. Docendo discimus	S	[By] teaching, we learn.
XXV.	Citius Altius Fortius	S	Faster, Higher, Stronger



Other questions that may be asked about Latin mottos:

- To whom are these sayings attributed?
- Which sayings have been used more than once in history?
- What is the historical order of these sayings?
- Which sayings tend to go together?
- Which are specifically Christian sayings?
- Which 5 would be the most helpful to a modern elementary/middle school/high school student?
- Which ones would be good to remember 10 years from now?



I. **Senatus Populusque Romanus** The Senate and the People of Rome (say-NAH-toos poe-poo-LOOSE-quay roe-MAH-noose)

- Abbreviated as SPQR
- Adding the suffix **-que** to the end of a word means "and" or "and also." It is a way of joining two words together to show a close connection instead of the normal word **et**.
- SPQR was an important symbol throughout the history of Rome.
- It was the motto of the **Roman Republic** (509 BC 31 BC).
- The **Roman Empire** (27 BC AD 395) also kept this motto even though the Senate was less powerful under the emperors.
- **SPQR** was used on Roman standards, banners, buildings, inscriptions and official documents to show the authority and unity of Rome.
- SPQR is still associated with Rome and Roman heritage today.
- Roman soldiers were often tattooed with **SPQR** to identify them as members of the Roman military.
- In the 2000 movie *Gladiator* the title character (Russell Crowe) has a **SPQR** tattoo on his shoulder. After he is betrayed by the new Roman emperor and sold into slavery as a gladiator he cuts it out of his skin with a sharp stone. Cool scene.
- Latin teachers seem to love this motto. Every Latin class I have observed has had **SPQR** posted somewhere. Sometimes the teachers are even wearing **SPQR** T-shirts!

- What does this mean in English?
- What is the abbreviation?
- What does the suffix -que mean when attached to the end of a word in Latin?
- Who used it as their motto?
- Who else used it as their motto?
- What are some places it was written?
- What did this communicate?
- What is it a symbol of today?
- Why do you think it was such a popular phrase in Rome?
- Why do you think Latin teachers are so in love with this phrase?





II. Mens sana in corpore sano

A healthy mind in a healthy body

(men SAH-nah een cor-POUR-ray SAH-no)

—Juvenal, Roman poet (AD 1st Century – AD 2nd Century)

• The entire quote was originally:

Orandum est ut sit mens sana in corpore sano.

You should pray to have a healthy mind in a healthy body.

- This saying emphasizes that physical health and mental health are connected.
- Keeping your body healthy is part of keeping your mind healthy, and vice versa.
- It highlights an integrated approach to well-being.
- The Latin word **corpore** means "body," and several English words are related to it. Here are some English words that are related to **corpore**.

corporeal: Relating to the physical body, having physical form.

The Marine Corps: A branch of the US military.

corpse: A dead body.

corporal: Pertaining to the body, as in corporal punishment. Also, a non-commissioned officer in the military.

corporation: an organization that is separate from its members or owners.

corpulent: having a large body, overweight.

incorporate: to include something into an organization.

corpus: a body of work.

- What does this mean in English?
- Who said it?
- What should people do to have a corpore sano?
- What goes into creating a corpore sano?
 (Quality food, exercise, sleep, stress management)
- Does what you eat have an effect on your **corpore**? How? What then should you eat? What should you avoid eating?
- What should people do to have a mens sana?
- What goes into creating a mens sana?
- Does what you read have an effect on your **mens**? How? What then should you read? What should you avoid reading?
- Do you think most people in our culture tend to focus on **mens sana** or **corpore sano?** Both? Neither? Why?
- What does the combination of mens sana and corpore sano mean to you?
- How would you live if this were your goal?
- What would this look like in your own life?



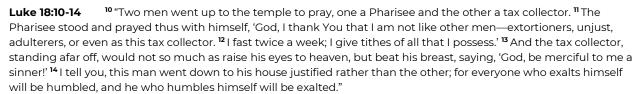


III. **Incurvatus in se.** Curved inward on oneself.

(een-coor-WHA-toos een say)

-Attributed to **Augustine**, theologian and philosopher (AD 354 – AD 430)

- · Augustine is also known as Saint Augustine and Augustine of Hippo.
- The concept of **incurvatus in se** has had a lasting influence on Christian thought and is still an important concept in theology today.
- Incurvatus in se has to do with the inclination of humans to be focused on their own cravings rather than on God, doing what is right, or on helping their neighbors.
- It is the nature of the sinful flesh to be incurvatus in se.
- This motto emphasizes the idea of humanity's inherent sinfulness and the need for God's grace to redeem us.
- This was an important saying during the Protestant Reformation (AD 1517 AD 1648).
- It was often used by Martin Luther.
- Luther used this phrase to describe fallen man's sinful condition.
- This saying has been used ever since to describe the human condition.
- This Latin phrase is still used in religion and philosophy as shorthand to describe the human tendency towards self-centeredness, self-absorption and an obsessive preoccupation with one's own desires.
- The saying **incurvatus in se** does not appear exactly in **Augustine**'s writings, but the idea is present in his work.
- Incurvatus in se is not a specific phrase from the Bible, but there are many passages that support this idea. Here are a few:



Romans 3:10-12 "As it is written: 'None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

Romans 7:18-19 "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing."

Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

Ecclesiastes 7:29 "This alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes."

- What does this mean in English?
- What does that mean? Explain.
- Who is given credit for saying this originally?
- Who else also often used this phrase to describe our sinful condition?
- Is this an accurate description of human beings in general? Why or why not?
- Incurvatus in se is a common way to live. What's wrong with that? Shouldn't you always look out for number one (your own self)? Explain.
- Instead of incurvatus in se, how should we live?

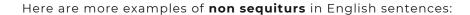






IV. **Non sequitur** It does not follow.

- This Latin phrase is still often used in English.
- A **non sequitur** is a random statement that has nothing to do with what came before.
- A **non sequitur** does not logically follow from the previous statement or argument.
- A **non sequitur** is a logical fallacy.
- It's a line of reasoning that doesn't make sense!
- A conclusion that does not connect to previous statements.
- Dogs have four feet. Cats have four feet. So, dogs are cats. Huh? That's a non sequitur!



"It's going to rain tomorrow, so my favorite color is blue."

"She's from France, so she must be a great cook."

"He's tall. He must be good at basketball."

Teacher: "OK, class, any questions about the material on page 42?"

Student raises hand: "My dog just had puppies."

Teacher: "OK, class, who can tell me when the Declaration of Independence was signed?"

Student raises hand: "I love video games!"

PEOPLE DIED OF CANCER BEFORE CIGARETTES WERE INVENTED... HACK! COUNTY CAUSE CANCER!

NON SEQUITUR

2= a number

- What does this mean in English?
- How is it pronounced in Latin
- How is it pronounced in English?
- What is a **non sequitur**? Give a short definition.
- Give an example of a **non sequitur**.

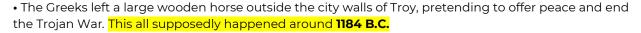


V. Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes

I fear Greeks, even when they bring gifts.

(tee-MAY-oh dah-NAH-ose ate DOE-nah fay-RAIN-tase)

- **—Virgil**, Roman poet at the time of Augustus (70 BC 19 BC)
- This is a famous and enduring expression among literate English speakers and has become a proverbial warning against accepting gifts from potential adversaries.
- This phrase is from Virgil's famous poem, *The Aeneid*, Book 2, line 49.
- Danaos is a poetic way of saying "Greeks."
- A mythological figure named **Danaos** was the father of the Greeks. His descendants were associated with Greek heroes and legends.
- This phrase has to do with the story of the Trojan Horse originally told in *The Odyssey*, by Homer.



- The Trojans did not know that Greek soldiers were hiding inside the horse and brought it into their city, Troy. At night, the Greeks came out of the Trojan Horse and opened the city gates from the inside. The rest of the Greek army entered and captured Troy.
- In *The Aeneid*, A Trojan priest of Apollo named **Laocoön** tried to warn his people about the danger of accepting the gift of the Trojan Horse from the Greeks with this saying.
- This phrase warns against accepting unexpected gifts or favors without suspicion because there may be hidden motives: Someone may be trying to trick you with a free gift.
- This motto is well known in literature and culture and is often used to warn against deceptive actions.
- The English expression "Beware of Greeks bearing gifts" is related to the Latin expression above. It warns against accepting gifts from potential enemies or strangers because they may hide dangers or ulterior motives. It emphasizes the need to be skeptical and vigilant in the face of unexplained generosity: Stop being so gullible!

- What does this mean in English?
- Who said it? (Two correct answers: the author and the character in the Aeneid.)
- Where and when was the setting of this phrase?
- Why was Laocoon suspicious of the Greeks?
- What was the gift the Greeks gave the Trojans?
- How was Laocoön proven to be right?
- What was the result of the gift of the Trojan Horse?
- What does this motto warn against?
- What is a similar English expression that is related to this Latin saying?
- What is an example of a gift with a hidden motive that **you** have experienced, seen or heard about? It could be gift that was given to you, or to someone else—a gift that was not sincere or that had strings attached.







VI. Sic semper tyrannis

(seek SAME-per tee-RAW-neese)

Thus always to tyrants.

- This phrase threatens leaders who are behaving unjustly. It threatens that they will get what they deserve for the tyrannical abuse of their people.
- It is a shortened version of:

"Sic semper evello mortem tyrannis"

Thus, always I bring death to tyrants.

- This is an ancient motto of resistance against oppressive government leaders that unjustly mistreat, overtax, impoverish, imprison, torture or murder their citizens.
- Legend has it that this line was uttered by two Roman men, both named **Brutus**. Each helped to assassinate a tyrant and changed the course of Roman history.



- Neither Brutus may have actually said it, but the phrase fits so well that the legend endures.
- In 509 B.C. Lucius Junius Brutus killed the tyrannical King Tarquin (Also known as Tarquinius, derived from his full name, Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, with 'Superbus' meaning 'the Proud'). Tarquin was the last Roman king. The action of Brutus helped to end the Roman Kingdom (753 BC 509 BC) that began with Romulus. Tarquin's death helped to bring about the Roman Republic (509 BC 27 BC).
- in **44 B.C.** another Brutus with a similar name, **Marcus Junius Brutus**, participated in the conspiracy to murder the dictator **Julius Caesar**. Brutus thought he was saving the Roman Republic, but the Republic collapsed 17 years later and became the **Roman Empire** in 27 BC when **Augustus Caesar**, Julius Caesar's heir, became emperor.
- The assassin **John Wilkes Booth** shouted this phrase as he killed Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, in 1865 just six days after the official end of the Civil War.
- Sic semper tyrannis has been the motto of the US states of Virginia and South Carolina since 1776.

Questions that may be asked about this motto:

- What does this mean in English?
- What is a tyrant?
- What does this phrase hint will happen to tyrants?
- Who supposedly said it in Roman history? (2 possible answers)
- What happened after the first time it was famously shouted?
- What happened after the second time it was famously shouted?
- Who famously said it in American history?
- What state has this as its motto?
- Do tyrants always get what's coming to them?
- Is it just to murder a tyrant? (kill outside of the law) Why or why not?
- Are there legal and ethical ways of dealing with tyrants?

For historical fiction about the fall of the Roman Kingdom, check out these vocabulary-controlled Latin novellas:

- **Unus romanus**, by Michael Dybicz
- Lars Romam odit! by Andrew Olimpi
- Cloelia puella Rōmāna, by Ellie Arnold



VII. Simil iustus et peccator

Simultaneously righteous and a sinner.

At the same time just and sinner.

—**Martin Luther**, priest, professor, theologian, and leader of the Protestant Reformation (A.D. 1483 – A.D. 1546)

- This phrase played a crucial role in the Protestant Reformation. It explained a key idea and became a rallying point for the Reformers.
- It is both a confession (I am a sinner) and an absolution (Christ has made me righteous).
- This saying may be hard to understand because it combines two things that are very different: being righteous (right with God through faith in Christ) and at the same time a sinner (struggling against your sinful nature).
- Knowing this phrase, and the reasoning behind it, can help to understand how Christians can refer to themselves as both sinners and saints, rather than just one or the other.
- It explains that Christians are not judged by their own righteousness, but by that of Christ.
- Believers are justified and made righteous through faith but still struggle against their sinful nature.
- This tension is an important aspect of Christian theology and the lifelong process of sanctification—being made holy.
- This specific phrase is not in the Bible, but it aligns with several passages that have to do with the tension between human sinfulness and the righteousness granted by faith in Christ:

Romans 3:10 (ESV) None is righteous, no, not one.

Romans 3:23 (ESV) For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 7:15 (ESV) For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

Galatians 5:17 (ESV) For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

1 John 1:8-9 (ESV) If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Questions that may be asked about this motto:

- What does this mean in English?
- Who said it?
- Who else said it?
- How is this phrase helpful to Christians?
- How is it possible for someone to be both a sinner and righteous at the same time?

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VIII. Aut viam inveniam aut faciam.

I will either find a way or make one. Either a way I will find or I will make.

(ah-oot WE-ahm een-way-NEE-ahm ah-oot FAH-key-ahm)

—**Hannibal Barca**, (247 BC – 181 BC) Carthaginian general who famously fought against Rome during the Second Punic War.

- duffing the Second Purile War.
- This Latin saying is still used by English speakers.
- It is used to show or encourage determination and resourcefulness. This phrase is often used in motivational speeches and writing to encourage others to move forward, even when faced with difficulties. I've even seen it written large (in Latin and English) on a wall in an inner-city high school in Chicago.
- Hannibal probably said something like this in his native tongue, Punic (a form of Phoenician), in 218 BC.
- If there is no clear path, you may have to create your own way to reach your goals.
- Hannibal is recognized as one of the most brilliant military strategists in history, on par with Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Napoleon Bonaparte, Sun Tzu, Genghis Khan, and British Admiral Lord Nelson.
- Hannibal is known for taking his war elephants to Rome across the Alps into northern Italy.
- During the Second Punic War, Hannibal wanted to attack Rome with elephants, but Rome's navy was too strong, so a direct attack across the Mediterranean Sea was not possible. He decided to march his army and his elephants across the Alps and attack Roman territory by land from the north.
- When his generals protested that marching elephants across the mountains was impossible, Hannibal responded with this phrase.



- The name "Hannibal" means "Favor of Baal." Baal was a god worshipped by pagans in Carthage, Phoenicia, and Canaan—the same Baal that was worshipped by Jezebel and her husband, Ahab, king of Israel, as described in the Old Testament. Here are a few passages in the Bible that refer to Baal: Judges 2:11-13, Judges 6:25-32, 1 Samuel 7:4, 1 Kings 16:29-33, 1 Kings 18:17-40, 2 Kings 10:18-28, Jeremiah 19:5, Jeremiah 32:35, Hosea 2:16-17. Baal worship was known for cruelty, including child sacrifice.
- The Second Punic War lasted from **218 BC** to **201 BC** (17 years). Rome won the war but did not completely destroy Carthage.

- What does this phrase mean in English?
- Who said it?
- In which of the Punic Wars (Rome v. Carthage) did Hannibal lead the armies of Carthage?
- What was the way Hannibal invented to attack Rome? Why did he have to do this?
- How is this phrase used today?

- What does the name Hannibal mean?
- Who/What was the god of Carthage?
- Where else is this god mentioned?







IX. Hannibal ad portas!

Hannibal is at the gates!

- The Carthaginian general Hannibal is considered one of the greatest military geniuses of all time.
- Hannibal crossed the Alps with elephants to attack Rome from the north during the Second Punic War (218 BC – 201 BC)
- Hannibal was a real threat. He almost conquered Rome—his armies came close to the city, but he did not take it.
- Hannibal was such a terrorizing figure that centuries after the Second Punic War Roman senators would cry out "Hannibal ad portas!" to express an urgent danger and the need to act quickly.



- This phrase was also said to have been used by Roman parents to discipline naughty children—like "Hannibal is going to get you, if you don't go to bed right now!"
- The phrase is still used when faced with a potentially dangerous situation as a strong warning.
- Although it is not an everyday expression, it is still recognized and understood by those familiar with its historical context and with the Latin language.

- What does this phrase mean in English?
- Who was Hannibal?
- What was he famous for doing?
- Was he considered a good general?
- Why was Hannibal such a terrorizing figure to the Romans?
- How was this phrase used by Roman senators?
- How was it used by Roman parents?
- How is it used today?



X. Sola fide. Sola gratia. Sola scriptura. By faith alone. By grace alone. Scripture alone.

Sola Fide (Faith Alone): "For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith." (Romans 1:17). Faith is much more than simple belief. It is trust and love, a relationship with Jesus. Luther's explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed points out: "I believe that by my own reason or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in true faith..."

Sola Gratia (Grace Alone): "For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from ourselves; it is God's gift..." (Ephesians 2:8). Grace is being reconciled with God and neighbor, not by what we have done, but by what God has done for all of us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone): "All scripture is Godbreathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that all God's people may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The belief that the Bible contains what we need to be reconciled to God and live righteously was important to the reformers. Scripture is above all other authorities, including the Church and tradition. Ultimately, for Martin Luther, the Bible was the 'cradle' of Christ. This provides a brief insight into a significant gift for us, courtesy of the Reformation and our God who blesses us with God's Word, God's Grace and the Faith to carry on!





The other two "solas" are:

- Solus Christus (Christ alone) emphasizes the exclusivity of Jesus' role in salvation: "No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).
- Soli Deo gloria (Glory to God alone) says that the purpose of creation, salvation, and everything—including our goal as Christians—is the glory of God, "that God may be all in all" (1 Cor 15:28).

In his famous speech at the Diet of Worms (1521) after being asked to renounce his teachings, Martin Luther shows how **Sola Scriptura** was the belief that led to the other **solas**:

"Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted, and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise; May God help me. Amen."

What does "sola" mean in English? Why is the word "sola" in each phrase?



XI. Omnia vincit amor. Omnia vincit labor. Omnia vincit veritas

Love conquers all.

Work conquers all.

Truth conquers all.

Omnia vincit amor

Love conquers all.

(ohm-NEE-ah WEEN-keet ah-MOR)

- -Virgil, Roman poet at the time of Augustus (70 BC 19 BC)
- This phrase has been used throughout history to express the idea that love can overcome all obstacles and difficulties.
- 1 Corinthians 13: Love believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

Omnia vincit labor

Work conquers all.

(ohm-NEE-ah WEEN-keet lah-BOR)

- -Virgil, Roman poet at the time of Augustus (70 BC 19 BC)
- Virgil also said this phrase in "Georgics" a poem he wrote between 36 and 29 B.C.

The full passage from Book 1, lines 145-146 is:

Labor omnia vincit. Improbis et duris urgens in rebus egestas.

Steadfast labor overcomes all things. And it forces even the most severe difficulties to yield.

- It is usually interpreted as "most anything can be achieved if proper work is applied".
- You just have to focus and keep working on your toughest challenges.
- This is the motto of the state of Oklahoma.

Omnia vincit veritas

Truth conquers all.

(ohm-NEE-ah WEEN-keet way-REE-tahs)

- Jan Hus, Czech priest, professor, and theologian (AD 1370 AD 1415)
- Jan Hus lived 100 years before Martin Luther.
- He was martyred for trying to institute some of the reforms that Luther did.
- The writings and martyrdom of Jan Hus influenced Luther and other reformers.
- He is also referred to as John Huss.

Questions to ask students:

- What do each of these mean in English?
- Who said them?
- Which of these **omnia** quotes makes the most sense to you?
- Which do you think it is that conquers all? Love, work or truth?



XII. Hoc est corpus meum.

(hoke ayst COR-poos MAY-oom)

This is my body.

- This Latin phrase was used in Christian liturgy during Holy Communion during the consecration of the elements. Though not often said in Latin, is still used in the languages of the people today.
- The phrase comes directly from Scripture. Jesus said it in:

Matthew 26:26

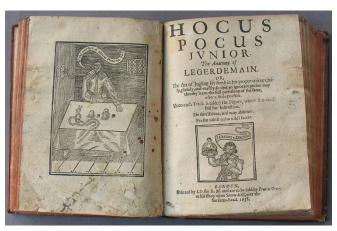
Mark 14:22

Luke 22:19

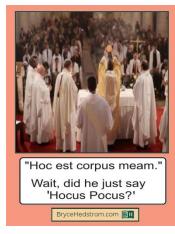
The apostle Paul also wrote about it in:

1 Corinthians 11:24

- This exact phrase was said in the church every Sunday in Latin all over the world for centuries.
- When Latin stopped being used by the common people they still heard the priest saying this phrase, but they didn't understand what it meant.
- They knew something miraculous was happening to the bread, but they didn't understand what, how, or why.







- "Hoc est corpus meum" began to be misunderstood as "Hocus pocus."
- "Hocus pocus" eventually became a phrase that was used in magic tricks. These "secret" magic words helped to create the illusion that something miraculous was happening in their tricks. Magicians still use this phrase today.



Questions to ask students:

- What does this mean in English?
- Who said it?
- When was it said?
- Why was it misinterpreted to mean something else?
- Is this really a magical incantation (saying)?



XIII. Gloria in excelsis Deo

Glory to God in the highest

XIV. Felix dies natalis Cristi Merry Christmas



XV. Divide et impera

Divide and rule; Divide and conquer

- This Latin saying has been around for thousands of years. The English version is more common in our culture.
- It is often attributed to **Gaius Julius Caesar**. He may not have said it, but he certainly used this idea over and over in his military campaigns and in his political career, especially in descriptions of warfare that he wrote in *The Gallic Wars*, and in his later political takeover of Roman politics.



- The ancient Chinese general Sun Tzu (6th century BC) suggested similar strategies in his famous book in military strategy *The Art of War*.
- This saying was also used by the ruthless Italian Renaissance schemer and philosopher Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527), author of *The Prince*.

Similar Latin sayings: Divide ut regnes Divide so that you may rule.
 Divide ut imperes Divide so that you may conquer.

• What does this mean? It could be taken two ways: 1) Split up a large task into smaller ones so that you can get your work done more quickly. 2) Create division among your opponents to control them more easily. Breaking down your opponents into smaller factions makes them easier to defeat. This is the way it is most often interpreted.

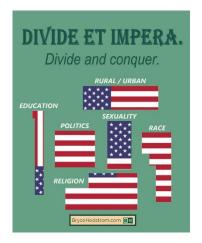
• Why is this important to know? To be aware that people are trying to defeat you and your group by making you fight one another. They want to divide you from your allies so they can defeat you more easily. Don't fall for it.

Questions to ask students:

- What does this mean in English?
- What does it mean?
- What else could it mean?
- Who is often given credit for saying it?
- What is a similar Latin saying?
- What is another similar Latin saying?
- Who else said something similar?
- Why is it important to know?
- What are some examples of this in our modern society?
- What is an example of this from your own life?







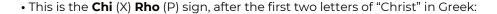


XVI. In hoc signo vinces

In this sign you will conquer.

- The soon-to-be Roman emperor **Constantine** (AD 272-337) said he heard this phrase and saw the **Chi Rho** symbol written in the sky.
- Although he was not a Christian at the time, he took it as a sign from God.

• On the night before the battle of the Milvian Bridge (AD 312) Constantine had a dream where Jesus explained he was to use this symbol as a military standard.





Χριστός

- The **Chi-Rho** sign is a **Christogram**, a symbol of Christ that has been used in the church for many centuries.
- Constantine is also known as Constantine the Great due to his noteworthy achievements.
- He went on to win the battle of the Milvian Bridge and eventually became emperor of Rome.
- Constantine converted to Christianity and was baptized around AD 312. He soon began to loosen the laws against Christians and became known as the first Christian emperor of Rome.
- He convened the 1st Council of Nicaea in AD 325, which produced the **Nicene Creed**, which is still used in liturgical churches all over the world today.



- Constantine also reformed the money of Rome introducing the gold solidus which became a solid form of exchange in Europe for hundreds of years.
- He built a palace in **Byzantium**, and renamed it **Constantinople** which became the capital of the **Eastern Roman Empire** for more than a thousand years. Muslims conquered the city in 1453. **Constantinople** was renamed **Istanbul** in 1930.

- What does this mean in English?
- Where and when did it appear?
- Who saw it?
- What does it stand for?
- Where have you seen this symbol?
- What else do you know about Constantine?



XVII. panem et circenses

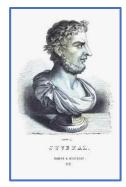
bread and circuses

—Attributed to **Juvenal**, Roman poet famous for his satire (AD 1st Century - 2nd Century)

- Giving out free food and amusement is the way Roman rulers distracted the masses from more important issues—especially during the decline of the Roman Empire.
- If people are given food and entertainment they will not tend to revolt.



• People will often give up their freedom and their critical thinking in exchange for a full belly and a bit of distraction.



- Roman emperors and politicians gave the people wheat and gladiatorial games or chariot races to keep their power and popularity.
- And it works—this strategy is still used today. Now it is coordinated with big government, big technology and big media companies.
- Throughout the centuries people have been willing to trade their time, attention, money, and even their freedom for temporary pleasures.
- This political strategy (Hey everybody, look! Free Stuff! Woo hoo!) can provide short term relief but it does not address core problems.
- Big sporting events, award shows, concerts, and wars provide diversions so that the populace does not think too much about the real problems in society.



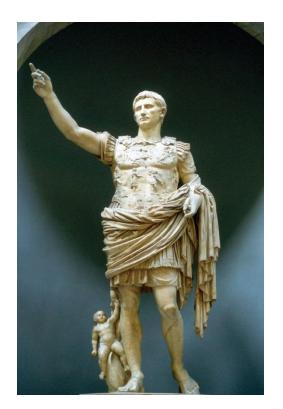
- What does this mean in English?
- How was it used in Rome?
- Why was it used?
- Is anybody stupid enough to fall for this today?
- What are some examples of how this strategy may be used on us today?
- Where have you seen this?



XVIII. festina lente.

Hurry slowly. / Make haste slowly.

- This phrase is attributed to the first Roman emperor Caesar Augustus (63 BC AD 14).
- It was one of his favorite sayings, and it characterized his approach in politics and life.
- It means you should act with balance of caution and speed.
- To be effective, you have to get things done in a timely manner, but also with careful thought and planning.
- If you hurry too quickly you may do a task poorly. Then you will have to do it again, taking much more time than if you had done it right the first time.
- Fun Fact: **Augustus** was known by different names at different times in his life:
 - His birth name was Gaius Octavius.
 - Before becoming emperor, he was commonly called **Octavian**.
 - After Julius Caesar adopted him he was known as **Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus**.
 - After the assassination of Julius Caesar, Augustus also became known as Caesar Divi Filius, "Caesar, son of the Divine" because Julius Caesar had been deified (regarded as a god) after his death.
 - After defeating Marcus Antonius (Mark Anthony) and Cleopatra, he took on the title **Augustus**, which means "majestic" or "respected one."



- What does this mean in English?
- Who supposedly said it?
- Explain what this means.
- Why is this a wise saying that has endured through the centuries?
- What is an example of doing this or failing to do this in your life?



XIX. Ad absurdum.

Ad infinitum.

Ad nauseum.

To the point of absurdity.

To infinity.

To the point of nausea.

- Ad absurdum refers to taking an idea beyond reason—to a place where the claims and implications no longer make any sense and are just plain stupid. Also used with **reductio ad absurdum** = reduction to the absurd.
- Ad infinitum means talking about something on and on, never stopping—talking about something forever. Just shut up already!
- Ad nauseum is used when someone talks about an issue too much—when a point gets repeated so much and pushed so far that it makes people want to throw up.
- These Latin phrases are often used with the word **argumentum**, as in an argument taken to the point of stupidity, too far, or to the point of making others sick.
- The three phrases are also often used together. Here are all three used in a <u>music magazine article</u> about a song that was just being played too much:

It seemed the radio stations were playing that same song **ad absurdum**, **ad infinitum**, **ad nauseam**. I just got sick of hearing it over and over and over again. I switched to another radio station – and there it was, again. I found a third radio station—same song. Getting frustrated I found a fourth radio station and was amazed! All four radio stations were playing the same song all at the same time.

- Ad infinitum means "it continues forever." It can also be used somewhat like repeating the Latin phrase et cetera over and over. Ad infinitum can also refer to ideas that continue beyond what is shown: "The sequence of rational numbers 1, 2, 3, ... continues ad infinitum."
- The 17th-century writer Jonathan Swift, author of *Gulliver's Travels*, used the phrase in his satirical poem *On Poetry: A Rhapsody* (1733):

The vermin only tease and pinch Their foes superior by an inch. So, naturalists observe, a flea Has smaller fleas that on him prey; And these have smaller still to bite 'em, And so proceed **ad infinitum**. Thus every poet, in his kind, Is bit by him that comes behind.

- What does **Ad absurdum** mean in English?
- What does *Ad infinitum* mean in English?
- What does *Ad nauseum* mean in English?
- What do these saying describe?
- What do these sayings remind us to do (or not do)?
- How can it be helpful to know these sayings?
- How can these sayings help you to recognize bad arguments?

- What is an **argumentum ad absurdum**?
- What is an **argumentum ad infinitum**?
- What is an **argumentum ad nauseum**?

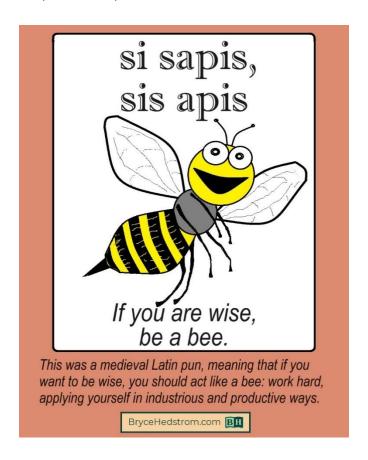


XX. Si sapis, sis apis.

(see SAP-ees see SAP-ees)

If you are wise, be a bee.

• This is a pun because both parts of the phrase sound the same.



Questions that may be asked about this motto:

- What does this mean in English?

- Why is it funny?

- Why is it wise?

- What are bees like?
- Are bees industrious? Do they work together? Are they organized? Do they keep working for the good of their hive? How do they do that? What patterns of behavior do we see in bees?
- If you were like a bee (not being a bug, but being a consistently hard worker), what would your life be like?
- What would your day be like?

- Is it wise to be like a bee?

XXI. The first 10 digits of Pi in Latin.

Pi Day is approaching



XXII. Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres... All Gaul is divided into three parts...

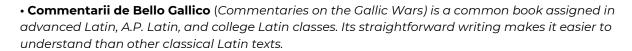
(gah-LEAH ayst OHM-neese dee-WEE-sah een PAR-tees trayss)

- —<u>Julius Caesar</u>, Roman general, statesman, author, and dictator of Rome (100 BC March 15, 44 BC).
- This is the opening line of Julius Caesar's **Commentarii de Bello Gallico** (*Commentaries on the Gallic Wars*, also known as *The Gallic War*), one of the best-known works in ancient Latin.
- In the book Caesar describes his victorious military campaigns in Gaul (France).
- The quote above is the first part of the first sentence. The rest of it is commonly memorized by Latin students. The full first sentence is:

Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres, quarum unam incolunt Belgae, aliam Aquitani, tertiam qui ipsorum lingua Celtae, nostra Galli appellantur.

Gaul is a whole divided into three parts, one of which is inhabited by the Belgae, another by the Aquitani, and a third

by a people called in their own tongue, Celtae, in ours (Latin) it is called Galli (Gaul/France).



The Gallic War is often used in Latin classes as the first exposure to authentic classical Latin because:

- It was written by Julius Caesar, one of the most prominent figures in Roman history.
- It helps with language acquisition.
- It **immerses students** in a broad cultural and historical understanding of ancient Rome.
- It can be tailored to the level of various Latin courses, from beginnings to advanced levels.
- One of the most interesting parts is in Book 7 (sections 68-89) which describes **the Siege of Alesia**, where Caesar's army brilliantly defeats a much, much larger force of Gauls that had him surrounded.

Questions that may be asked about this motto:

- What does this mean in English?

- What modern country now occupies Gallia or Gaul?

- Who said it?

- Who was he?

- Where is this quote from?

- What is that book about?

- In which level of Latin classes is Caesar's book used?
- Why is *The Gallic War* used so often in advanced Latin classes?
- In how many years will you probably be able to read it?



XXIII. Translatores sunt traditores.

Translators are traitors.

(trahn-slaw-TOR-ace soont trah-dee-TOR-ace)

Attributed to Saint Jerome (A.D. 327-420)

- A translator puts writing into another language. A traitor is someone who betrays his people.
- Translators are not necessarily traitors—but they can be.
- With translations there is a risk of not being accurate—of changing the original intention of the author. Translators can wrongly put their own meaning into translations.
- The two main kinds of translations are word-for-word translations, which are as accurate as possible, and dynamic equivalent translations or paraphases, which try to explain the meaning.







This is still a proverb in Italy today.

Saint Jerome is known for his translation of the Bible into Latin: the Vulgate translation. He put the sacred Greek and Hebrew texts of the Bible into Latin.

- Jerome wanted the Bible to be understandable to Latin speakers that did not know Greek or Hebrew. He started his work around A.D. 380 and finished his translation in A.D. 405.
- Jerome's Latin Vulgate translation was commonly used by the Catholic church shortly thereafter and it became the main version of the Bible used in western Europe for over 1,000 years.
- Martin Luther translated the Bible into German because Latin was no longer understandable to most of the German people. He finished the translation of the New Testament into German in 1522, and the Old Testament in 1534.
- · After Luther's translation of the Bible into German it was translated into the common languages of many countries across Europe and around the world.

- What does this mean in English?Who supposedly said it?
- What is he known for?

- What is the Vulgate?
- How long did it take him to translate the Bible into Latin?
- For how long was the Vulgate the main translation of the Bible in western Europe?
- Jerome was a translator—one of the most important translators in world history. Why would he say that translators are traitors?

- How can translators be traitors?
- Are all translators traitors? Why or why not?
- Why is it good to be aware of this saying? What makes for a good translation?
- Why can it make sense to read in the original language rather than in a translation?
- Who did the same kind of work as Jerome 1,000 years later by translating the Latin Vulgate Bible into German?
- What was the effect in Europe and around the world after Luther's translation?

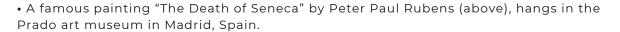


XXIV. Docendo discimus

[By] teaching, we learn.

(doe-KAYN-do dee-SKEE-moos)

- Attributed to **Seneca** (also called Seneca the younger), Roman Stoic philosopher, senator, and playwright (4 BC AD 65).
- Seneca was born in Cordoba, Spain.
- Seneca's life overlapped with the reign of **Augustus Caesar** and other Roman emperors, the earthly ministry of **Jesus**, the life of the apostle **Paul**, and the **New Testament** era.
- Seneca was an advisor to the Roman emperors **Caligula**, **Claudius** and **Nero**.
- Seneca was accused of treason and ordered to take his own life by the emperor **Nero**. He died by taking poison.



The original phrase was Word-for-word translation: People while they teach, they learn.
 Translation into English: People learn while they teach.

- When you teach, you learn more than if someone taught it to you.
- Helping others to understand something can help you to understand the subject better.
- Fun fact: Seneca's brother, **Gallio**, is mentioned in the New Testament book of **Acts, chapter 18:12-17**. Gallio was the proconsul (the Roman governor of the province) of Achaia. The apostle **Paul** was brought before Gallio when facing accusations by the Jews.

WE LEARN... 10% OF WHAT WE READ 20% OF WHAT WE HEAR 30% OF WHAT WE SEE 50% OF WHAT WE SEE AND HEAR 70% OF WHAT WE DISCUSS 80% OF WHAT WE EXPERIENCE 95% OF WHAT WE TEACH OTHERS

- What does this mean in English?
- Who said it? Who was he? When did he live?
- Do you think this saying makes sense? Why or why not?
- What is an example of this idea that you have noticed or experienced?
- How could you put this idea to use in your own life?
- What are some things you could teach to your fellow students in your Latin class?



XXV. Citius Altius Fortius

(kee-TEE-oos, all-TEE-oos, for-TEE-oos)

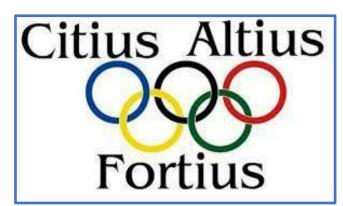
This was the Olympic motto since the Olympic games of 1924 in Paris.

It was proposed by **Pierre de Coubertin**, a French educator and co-founder of the International Olympic Committee.

The phrase speaks to striving for excellence in sports.

It emphasizes the goals of improvement and competition that are key parts of the Olympics.

The Olympic motto was altered in July of 2021 to:



Faster, Higher, Stronger

Citius Altius Fortius - Communiter

Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together

This change recognizes the potential of sports to unify the world.

The first summer Olympic Games to use this motto were held in Paris, France in 2024.

- What does this mean in English?
- Why is this motto fitting for the Olympics?
- When was the motto changed?
- What word was added to the motto?
- What English word does the added word look like?
- Why was the motto changed?
- Do you think the new motto will have a positive effect? Why or why not?
- When are the next Olympic games?
- Where will the next Olympic games be held?



PASSWORDS REVIEW / FINAL TEST

Latin Phrases that Are Still Used (and Useful) in English

Latin Mottos II

Version A: Write in Latin

1. The Senate and the People of Rome.	
2. A healthy mind in a healthy body	
3. Curved inward on oneself.	
4. It does not follow.	
5. I fear Greeks, even when they bring gifts.	
6. Thus always to tyrants!	
7. Simultaneously righteous and sinner.	
8. I will either find a way or make one.	
9. Hannibal is at the gates!	
10. Faith alone.	
11. Grace alone.	
12. Scripture alone.	
13. Love conquers all.	
14. Work conquers all.	
15. Truth conquers all.	
15. Truth conquers an.	
16. This is my body.	
17. Glory to God in the highest!	



18. Merry Christmas!	
19. Divide and rule / conquer.	
20. In this sign you will conquer.	
21. Bread and circuses	
22. Hurry slowly. / Make haste slowly.	
23. To the point of absurdity.	
24. To infinity.	
25. To the point of nausea.	
26. If you are wise, be a bee.	
27. The first 10 digits of Pi in Latin.	
28. All Gaul is divided into three parts	
29. Translators are traitors.	
30. [By] teaching, we learn.	
31. Faster, Higher, Stronger	



PASSWORDS REVIEW / FINAL TEST

Latin Phrases that Are Still Used (and Useful) in English

Latin Mottos II

Version B: With Explanations

Write each phrase in Latin, and then, for the "What do you know about it?" question, explain something about the phrase such as: a) When was it written? b) Who said it? c) How was it used? d) How is it used today? e) How is it useful? or f) How could you use it in your life?

1.	The Senate and the People of Rome.	
2.	What do you know about it?	
3.	A healthy mind in a healthy body	
4.	What do you know about it?	
5.	Curved inward on oneself.	
6.	What do you know about it?	
7.	It does not follow.	
8.	What do you know about it?	
9.	I fear Greeks, even when they bring gifts.	
10	. What do you know about it?	
11.	Thus always to tyrants.	
12	. What do you know about it?	
13	. Simultaneously righteous and sinner.	
14	. What do you know about it?	
15	. I will either find a way or make one.	
16	What do you know about it?	



17.	Hannibal is at the gates!	
18.	What do you know about it?	
19.	Faith alone.	
20.	What do you know about it?	
21.	Grace alone.	
22.	What do you know about it?	
23.	Scripture alone.	
24.	What do you know about it?	
25.	Love conquers all.	
26.	What do you know about it?	
27.	Work conquers all.	
28.	What do you know about it?	
29.	Truth conquers all.	
30.	What do you know about it?	
31.	This is my body.	
32.	What do you know about it?	
33.	Glory to God in the highest!	
34.	What do you know about it?	
35.	Merry Christmas!	
36.	What do you know about it?	
37.	Divide and rule / conquer.	



38.	What do you know about it?	
39.	In this sign you will conquer.	,
40.	What do you know about it?	
41.	Bread and circuses	
42.	What do you know about it?	
43.	Hurry slowly. / Make haste slowly.	
44.	What do you know about it?	
45.	To the point of absurdity.	
46.	What do you know about it?	
47.	To infinity.	
48.	What do you know about it?	
49.	To the point of nausea.	
50.	What do you know about it?	
51.	If you are wise, be a bee.	
52.	What do you know about it?	
53.	The first 10 digits of Pi in Latin.	
54.	What do you know about it?	
55.	All Gaul is divided into three parts	
56.	What do you know about it?	
57.	Translators are traitors.	
58.	What do you know about it?	



59. [By] teaching, we learn.	
60. What do you know about it?	
•	
61. Faster, Higher, Stronger	
62 What do you know about it?	



Nora, Latin Mottos II, page 1

PASSWORDS REVIEW / FINAL TEST Latin Phrases that Are Still Used (and Useful) in English Latin Mottos II Version A: Write in Latin Sentus Papalusque Romanus 1. The Senate and the People of Rome mens sana in copora 2. A healthy mind in a healthy body curvatus in se Curved inward on oneself. Non Sequetar 4. It does not follow. 5. I fear Creeks, even when they bring gifts. Timo Danaus et Dona for entes Sic semper tyranass 6. Thus always to tyrants! Simul estas et pecator 7. Simultaneously righteous and sinner. aut viam invenium aut 8. I will either find a way or make one. Hanibal ad portas 9. Hannibal is at the gates! sola Fide 10. Faith alone sola gratia 11. Grace alone sola scriptura 12. Scripture alone 13. Love conquers all. Omni vincit amor omni vincit labor 15. Truth conquers all. Omis vincit veritas 16. This is my body. Hoc est corpus meum 17. Glory to God in the highest! Gloria in excelis De

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Nora, Latin Mottos II, page 2

18. Merry Christmast	Filix dies natalis Christi
19. Divide and rule / conquer.	Divide et impera
20. In this sign you will conquer.	In hoc signo vinces
21. Bread and circuses	Panem et circenses
22. Hurry slowly. / Make haste slowly.	Festene lente
23. To the point of absurdity.	Ad absardam
24. To infinity.	Ad infinitam
25. To the point of nausea.	Ad nauseam
26. If you are wise, be a bee.	si sapis sis apis
27. The first 10 digits of Pi in Latin.	tres punctum unerm quattor unum
28. All Gaul is divided into three parts	Galla est divisa in partes tres
29. Translators are traitors.	translatoras sant tradores
30. [By] teaching, we learn.	Docendo Descinas
31. Faster, Higher, Stronger	Citias Altias Fortius

Nora, a 4th grader in her first year of Latin in my class, wrote out all 31 of the mottos for the school year. No notes. In class in front of me. This is how well "Passwords" stick with students.

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