



Homo Legens



May Newsletter

Dear Friends of Lingua Latina,

May has been a productive and rather enchanting month at Homo

Legens. We have a new podcast episode on a delightfully dark topic, the third booklet in our Vocabulary Series, and a new set of digital study tools to share. Read on!

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New Podcast Episode: Abracadabra — Latin as the Language of Magic

Episode 2 of *Latin with Marina and Marcus* is now live on Spotify and available through our website – and this one ventures into shadowy territory. Why does magic sound Latin? When a wizard casts a spell, a priest performs an exorcism, or a novelist writes an incantation, the words tend to sound Latin. This episode explores why.

Marina traces the long history of Latin as the language of magic, beginning with Roman curse tablets – the *defixiones* scratched onto lead and dropped into sacred springs, asking the gods to punish cloak-thieves and other wrongdoers. From there, the conversation moves through medieval grimoires, angelic and demonic magic, the alchemical tradition with its deliberately obscure allegories, and finally to modern fantasy, where pseudo-Latin spells like

"Expelliarmus" and genuinely Latin ones like "Accio" and "Crucio" carry the authority of the ancient and the dangerous.

Marcus, as a sixteenth-century scholar, grows increasingly uneasy throughout the discussion – after all, in his time, being associated with magical practices could have very serious consequences. His perspective adds both humour and genuine historical insight, especially as the episode reveals how thin the line between learned scholarship and suspected sorcery really was. The central argument is striking: Latin became magical not because of any intrinsic property of its sounds, but because of its social position as the language of those who knew.

You can find the podcast on Spotify by searching for "Latin with Marina and Marcus" or listen directly through our website. Just don't expect any actual conjurations.

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LATIN VOCABULARY

SCHOOL & WORK



MARINA SCHUMANN

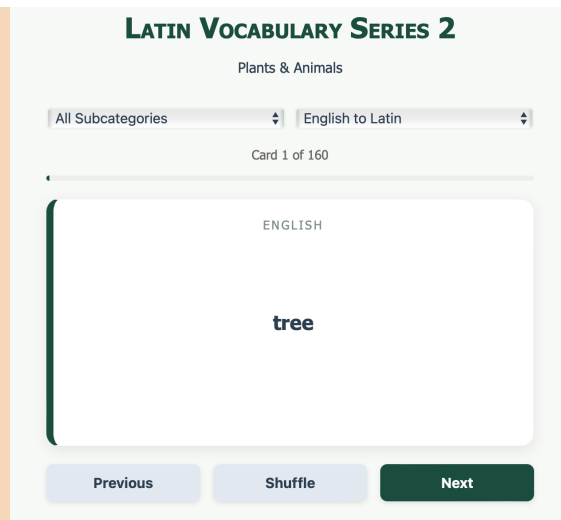
New Booklet: Vocabulary Series 3 — School & Work

The third booklet in our Latin Vocabulary Series is here! After *Home & Family* and *Plants & Animals*, this volume turns to the rooms and routines where so much of life actually happens: the classroom, the library, the office, the workshop, the courtroom, the clinic, the marketplace, and – for a final flourish – the screens and cables of our digital life. Aimed at advanced beginners and early intermediate learners, the booklet keeps the familiar structure: twelve thematic worksheets, each with a focused set of words, useful phrases that show the vocabulary at work, and four exercises moving from recognition to production, with an answer key at the back. The twelve topics range from *Schola et Auditorium* (School & Classroom) and *Libri et Bibliotheca* (Books & Library) through *Ius et Iudicia* (Law and Courts) and *Artes Medendi* (Healing Professions) to the thoroughly modern *Instrumenta Numeralia* (Digital Life).

This booklet's special feature is its range across periods. School and university vocabulary leans medieval, polished by centuries of monastic and academic use. The trades and healing professions draw on the same medieval stock, while the final unit reaches openly into the present – some terms are Vatican coinages, others everyday Neo-Latin. As the introduction puts it, the Latin of school and work is, perhaps more than any other, Latin meant to be used.

Like the previous volumes, it's available through our store as a digital product suitable for home printing or as a spiral-bound A4 edition, with colour options for the backing and binding.

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New Digital Tool: Flashcards (Beta)

We're excited to announce the first of our digital study resources: flashcard stacks for Booklets 1 and 2 are now available for free in a beta version on the Homo Legens blog, under Resources. These serve a double purpose – as a study aid for active practice and as a ready glossary when you want to look something up quickly. The flashcards are designed to accompany the Vocabulary Series, reinforcing the words and phrases through spaced repetition and recall. Since this is a beta release, we'd love to hear your feedback as we refine the experience. More digital tools are on the way, including quizzes and word games to make vocabulary practice genuinely fun. Head over to the blog to try them out – and let us know what you think!

Thank you, as always, for being part of the Homo Legens community. Whether you're listening to the podcast, working through a booklet, or testing our new flashcards, we are delighted to have you along as we keep finding new ways to make Latin accessible, useful, and alive.

Warm regards,

Marina Schumann

Homo Legens

<https://homolegens.io>

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