Peregrinatio academica

Wandering Scholars and the Language That Carried Them



A boy from Cracow and a boy from Glasgow could sit side by side in Bologna because every lecture in Europe was in Latin. This sheet collects the Latin from the episode, adds the vocabulary of the medieval university and the road, and offers texts by Frederick Barbarossa and Jacques de Vitry with a handful of exercises. No translations are given for the texts: the notes are there to help you read them yourself. An answer key for the exercises is on the last page.

1 Words from the episode

Latin	Meaning	Note
peregrinatio, -onis *f.*	journey abroad; pilgrimage	from *peregrinus*; *peregrinatio academica* ‘academic journey’
peregrinus, -i *m.*	foreigner; pilgrim	from *per* + *ager*: one who comes ‘across the land’
stabilitas loci	stability of place	*stabilitas*, -atis *f.*; *loci*: genitive of *locus*
quadrivium, -ii *n.*	the four mathematical arts	*quattuor* + *via* ‘four roads’; beside the *trivium*
universitas, -atis *f.*	the whole; guild, corporation	*universitas scholarium* ‘guild of students’
scholaris, -is *m.*	student	from *schola*
studium generale	school open to all comers	*studium*, -ii *n.* ‘study; school’
magister, -tri *m.*	master, teacher	hence *master*, *maître*, *Meister*, *meštar*
licentia docendi	licence to teach	*docendi*: genitive of the gerund of *docere*
natio, -onis *f.*	birth; people; student nation	from *nasci* ‘to be born’; plural *nationes*
privilegium, -ii *n.*	privilege	*privus* + *lex*: a law for one group; *Privilegium scholasticum*
Authentica Habita	the law beginning with *Habita*	named, like papal bulls, from its first word
benedicere	to bless	*bene* + *dicere*; *benedicat Dominus* ‘may the Lord bless’
res publica litterarum	the republic of letters	*litterae*, -arum *f. pl.* ‘letters, learning’
salvete · **valete, amici**	hello · farewell, friends	plural imperatives

Say it aloud

The acute accent marks the stressed syllable; it is a reading aid and not part of the spelling.

peregrinátio académica · peregrínus · stabílitas lóci · quadrívium · trívium · univérsitas scholárium · stúdium generále · magíster · licéntia docéndi · nátio, natiónes · privilégium scholásticum · Authéntica Hábita · benedícat Dóminus · res pública litterárum

2 More university Latin

These words are not all in the episode, but they are the ones you meet most often in university statutes, matriculation registers and students' letters.

People

studens, -entis *m.*	student
doctor, -oris *m.*	doctor, teacher
baccalaureus, -i *m.*	bachelor
rector, -oris *m.*	rector
cancellarius, -ii *m.*	chancellor
decanus, -i *m.*	dean
bedellus, -i *m.*	beadle
socius, -ii *m.*	companion, fellow
clericus, -i *m.*	cleric, clerk
vagus, -i *m.*	wanderer

The institution

facultas, -atis *f.*	faculty
collegium, -ii *n.*	college
bursa, -ae *f.*	purse; student hostel
matricula, -ae *f.*	register
statutum, -i *n.*	statute
gradus, -us *m.*	degree
cathedra, -ae *f.*	teacher's chair

What students do

studere + *dat.*	to study
discere	to learn
audire	to attend (lectures)
disputare	to debate
proficisci	to set out
peregrinari	to travel abroad
mendicare	to beg

Teaching

lectio, -onis *f.*	lecture, reading
disputatio, -onis *f.*	formal debate
quaestio, -onis *f.*	question for debate
examen, -inis *n.*	examination
glossa, -ae *f.*	gloss
artes liberales	the liberal arts
theologia, -ae *f.*	theology
ius, iuris *n.*	law
medicina, -ae *f.*	medicine
docere	to teach
legere	to read; to lecture

On the road

via, -ae *f.*	road
iter, itineris *n.*	journey
hospitium, -ii *n.*	lodging, inn
taberna, -ae *f.*	tavern
pons, pontis *m.*	bridge
Alpes, -ium *f. pl.*	the Alps
latro, -onis *m.*	robber
periculum, -i *n.*	danger
pecunia, -ae *f.*	money
viaticum, -i *n.*	money for the journey
eleemosyna, -ae *f.*	alms
exul, -ulis *m.*	exile

3 What the texts say

Two student voices

> *Haec et plus benedicat Dominus.* — begging students' phrase
> *Gaudeamus igitur, iuvenes dum sumus.* — student song

Notes. *haec*: neuter plural, 'these things' · *plus* 'more' · *benedicat*: present subjunctive, a wish · *gaudeamus*: present subjunctive, 'let us rejoice' · *igitur* 'therefore' · *iuvenis* 'young' · *dum* 'while'.

Questions. (a) Both sentences use a present subjunctive. Which one expresses a wish for a third person, and which an invitation to 'us'? (b) Marcus calls the first 'a blessing that is also a complaint'. Which word carries the complaint?

Text 1 · Frederick Barbarossa, *Authentica Habita* (Roncaglia, 1158)

The emperor on why students deserve his protection. Medieval spelling: *e* for *ae*.

> *Quis enim eorum non misereatur, qui amore scientie facti exules, de divitibus pauperes, semetipsos exinaniunt, vitam suam omnibus periculis exponunt, et a vilissimis sepe hominibus, quod graviter ferendum est, corporales iniurias sine causa perferunt?*

Notes. *scientie* = *scientiae*, *sepe* = *saepe* · *misereri* + genitive, 'to pity'; *misereatur*: subjunctive in a rhetorical question, 'who would not pity' · *eorum … qui* 'those who' · *amore scientie* 'for love of learning' · *facti exules*: 'having become exiles' · *de divitibus pauperes* 'poor instead of rich'; *dives*, -itis · *semetipsos exinanire* 'to drain, to exhaust oneself' · *exponere* + dative, 'to expose to' · *a vilissimis hominibus* 'from the basest men' · *quod graviter ferendum est* 'which is hard to bear' · *iniuria* 'wrong, injury' · *perferre* 'to endure'.

Questions. (a) What has made the students exiles? (b) Find the three verbs that say what they do or suffer. (c) Which case does *misereatur* take, and which word stands in it? (d) Who hurts them, and with or without cause?

Text 2 · Jacques de Vitry, *Historia occidentalis*, ch. 7 (c. 1220)

What the students of Paris called one another, and where it led.

> *… Anglicos potatores et caudatos affirmantes, Francigenas superbos, molles et muliebriter compositos asserentes, Teutonicos furibundos et in conviviis suis obscenos dicebant, Normannos autem inanes et gloriosos, Pictavos proditores et fortune amicos.* […] *Flandrenses superfluos, prodigos, comessationibus deditos, et more butyri molles et remissos, appellabant. Et propter huiusmodi convitia, de verbis frequenter ad verbera procedebant.*

Notes. The nations are in the accusative because they are objects of *dicebant* and *appellabant*, 'they called' · *potator* 'drinker' · *caudatus* 'having a tail', a stock insult for the English · *affirmantes*, *asserentes*: 'asserting (them to be)' · *Francigena*, -ae *m.* 'Frenchman' · *mollis* 'soft' · *muliebriter compositus* 'got up like a woman' · *furibundus* 'raging' · *convivium* 'feast' · *inanis* 'empty, vain' · *gloriosus* 'boastful' · *Pictavi*: men of Poitou · *proditor* 'traitor' · *fortune* = *fortunae* · *superfluus* 'extravagant' · *comessatio* 'revelling'; *deditus* + dative, 'given to' · *more butyri* 'like butter' · *remissus* 'slack' · *huiusmodi* 'of this kind' · *convitium* 'insult' · *verbera*, -um *n. pl.* 'blows'.

Questions. (a) Which nation is said to have tails, and which to be soft as butter? (b) Which three verbs mean 'they called' or 'they declared'? (c) Explain the wordplay in the last sentence. (d) All these students insulted one another in the same language. What does that tell us?

4 Exercises

A · Where did he study?

Match the Latin names of the university towns to the modern ones.

1 Bononia	2 Oxonia	3 Cantabrigia	4 Patavium
5 Salmantica	6 Lipsia	7 Colonia	8 Toletum
a Cambridge	b Leipzig	c Bologna	d Toledo
e Padua	f Oxford	g Cologne	h Salamanca

B · Three roads and four

The seven liberal arts were divided into the *trivium* and the *quadrivium*. Sort them: *arithmetica* · *astronomia* · *dialectica* · *geometria* · *grammatica* · *musica* · *rhetorica*. Gerbert went to Catalonia for one of the two groups: which?

C · From insult to plain statement

Jacques de Vitry's nations stand in the accusative. Put each pair into the nominative plural, as in *Anglicos potatores* → *Anglici potatores*.

1. *Francigenas superbos*
2. *Teutonicos furibundos*
3. *Normannos inanes*
4. *Pictavos proditores*
5. *Flandrenses prodigos*

D · Whose and of what?

Each phrase joins a noun to a genitive. Say whether the genitive is singular, plural, or a gerund.

1. *stabilitas loci*
2. *universitas scholarium*
3. *licentia docendi*
4. *amor scientiae*
5. *res publica litterarum*
6. *more butyri*

E · A letter home

Students' begging letters survive in numbers. Write yours in three sentences: a greeting (*N. patri suo salutem*), the need (*pecunia mihi deest*, 'I lack money'; *libros emere debeo*), and a request with *quaeso* 'please' and *mittere* 'to send'. Close with *vale*.

5 Further reading

Hilde de Ridder-Symoens (ed.), *A History of the University in Europe*, vol. I: *Universities in the Middle Ages* · Jürgen Leonhardt, *Latin: Story of a World Language* (2016) · Olaf Pedersen, *The First Universities: Studium Generale and the Origins of University Education in Europe* (1997) · Hastings Rashdall, *The Universities of Europe in the Middle Ages* (1895) · Françoise Waquet, *Latin: Or, the Empire of a Sign*. The full list of sources is in the episode description.

Answer key

A 1c · 2f · 3a · 4e · 5h · 6b · 7g · 8d.

B *trivium*: grammatica, rhetorica, dialectica · *quadrivium*: arithmetica, geometria, musica, astronomia · Gerbert went for the *quadrivium*.

C 1 Francigenae superbi · 2 Teutonici furibundi · 3 Normanni inanes · 4 Pictavi proditores · 5 Flandrenses prodigi.

D 1 singular · 2 plural · 3 gerund · 4 singular · 5 plural · 6 singular.

Two student voices (a) *benedicat* is the wish, *gaudeamus* the invitation · (b) *plus*.

Text 1 (a) love of learning · (b) *exinaniunt*, *exponunt*, *perferunt* · (c) the genitive: *eorum* · (d) the basest of men, without cause.

Text 2 (a) the English; the Flemings · (b) *dicebant*, *appellabant*, and the participles *affirmantes* / *asserentes* · (c) *verba* 'words' and *verbera* 'blows' differ by one syllable · (d) that Latin was their common tongue, even for quarrelling.