

## Latin phrases used in English

### A

- ab extra — from without
- ab imo pectore — from the bottom of the heart
- ab incunabulis — from the cradle
- ab initio — from the beginning
- ab intra — from within
- ab origine — from the beginning
- ab ovo — from the beginning (*lit.* from the egg)
- ab ovo usque ad malas — from beginning to end (*lit.* from the egg to the apples — at a Roman banquet)
- ab uno disce omnes — from one, learn of all others
- ab urbe condita — from the founding of the city (of Rome)
- absens hoeres non erit — out of sight out of mind (*lit.* the absent will not be heir)
- absente reo — the accused being absent
- absit invidia — envy apart (*lit.* let ill — will be absent)
- absit omen — let this not be a portent [of evil]
- ab uno disce omnes — from one, learn of the others
- ab urbe condita — from the foundation of the city [of Rome]
- a capite ad calcem — from head to toe (*lit.* from head to heel)
- a cruce salus — salvation from the cross
- ad aperturam (libri) — at the opening (of the book), wherever the book opens
- ad arbitrium — at pleasure
- ad calendas Graecas — never (*lit.* at the Greek calends — not in their calendar)
- ad captandum vulgus — to please the crowd
- a Deo et rege — from God and the king
- ad extremum — to extremes, to the last
- a die — from that day
- ad extremum — to the last
- ad finem — to the end
- ad gustum — to one's taste
- ad hoc — for a specific purpose
- ad hominem — arguing to the emotions and not to reason (*lit.* to the man)
- adhuc sub iudice lis est — the matter is still undecided and not to be interfered with from the outside (*lit.* the case is still before the judge)
- ad infinitum — on and on, to infinity
- ad instar — in the fashion of
- ad interim — in the meantime, meantime
- ad internecionem — to the last (*lit.* to extermination)
- ad libitum — at leasure
- ad locum — at the place
- ad majorem Dei gloriam — to the greater glory of God (the motto of the Jesuit order)
- ad modum — in the manner of
- ad multos annos — for many years [Happy birthday!]

ad nauseam — annoyingly with no end (*lit.* to disgust]  
 ad patres — deceased (*lit.* to the parents)  
 ad referendum — for further consideration  
 ad rem — to the point; for the purpose for which it is intended  
 adscriptus glebae — attached to the land  
 adsum — Present! Here! (*lit.* I am here)  
 ad summum — to the highest point/degree  
 ad unguem — to a nicety, precisely (*lit.* to the nail)  
 ad unum omnes — to the last man (*lit.* all to one)  
 ad utrumque paratus — prepared for either eventuality  
 ad valorem — to the (correct) value  
 ad vitam aut culpam — until some misconduct is proven (*lit.* to life or fault)  
 ad vivum — lifelike  
 aegrescit medendo — he gets worse with the remedies he uses  
 aequabiliter et diligenter — equably and diligently  
 aequo animo — unperturbed, with equanimity (*lit.* with equal mind)  
 aere perennius — more lasting than brass  
 aes triplex — showing tremendous courage (*lit.* triple brass)  
 aetatis suae — of his/her age  
 a fortiori — with stronger reason  
 age quod agis — concentrate on what you are doing (*lit.* do what you do)  
 alere flammam — to feed the flame  
 alieni appetens, sui profusus — greedy for the possessions of others, lavish with one's own  
 alter ego — another self  
 alter idem — another exactly the same  
 alter ipse amicus — a friend who is one's counterpart  
 alterum tantum — as much more  
 altius citius fortius — higher, faster, stronger (motto of the modern Olympic Games)  
 amantium irae amoris integratio — lovers' quarrels are the making of love  
 a maximis ad minima — from the greatest to the least  
 amici probantur rebus adversis — friends are proven in adversity  
 amicus humani generis — a friend of the human race  
 amicus Plato, sed magis amica veritas — Plato is a friend, but truth a greater friend  
 amicus usque ad aras — a friend to the very end (*lit.* to the sacrificial altar)  
 amor patriae — love of country  
 anglice — in English, in the English language  
 anguis in herba — a false friend (*lit.* a snake in the grass)  
 animo et fide — with courage and faith  
 anno — in the year  
 anno aetatis suae — in the year of his/her age  
 anno Christi — in the year of Christ  
 anno Domini — in the year of our Lord  
 anno humanae salutis — in the year of mankind's redemption  
 anno mundi — in the year of the world  
 anno urbis conditae — from the year of the founding of the city (of Rome)  
 annus terribilis — a horrible year

annus mirabilis — a year of wonders [1666 AD, the year of the great fire of London]  
 ante lucem — before the dawn  
 ante meridiem — before noon, in the morning  
 a posse ad esse — from possibility to reality  
 aquila non capit muscas — an eagle does not chase/catch flies  
 arbiter bibendi — master of ceremonies, toastmaster (*lit.* the judge of drinking)  
 arbiter elegantiarum — an authority on good taste  
 Arcades ambo — fellows of the same cloth (*lit.* Arcadians both)  
 arcana caelestia — heavenly mysteries  
 arcana imperii — State secrets  
 ardentia verba — glowing words/language  
 argumentum ad crumenam — an argument to one's own interest (*lit.* to the purse)  
 argumentum ad hominem — an argument to one's interests and prejudices (*lit.* to the man)  
 argumentum ad ignorantiam — an argument aimed at the other's ignorance  
 argumentum ad iudicium — an argument appealing to the judgement  
 argumentum ad verecundiam — an argument appealing to modesty  
 argumentum baculinum — brute force (*lit.* an argument with cudgels)  
 ad rem — an argument sticking to the matter in hand  
 arrectis auribus — all attention (*lit.* with ears pricked up)  
 ars est cerare artem — true art is to conceal art  
 ars gratia artis — art for the sake of art (the motto of film — makers MGM)  
 ars longa, vita brevis — art is long, life is short  
 Artium Magister — master of arts (MA)  
 asinus ad lyram — an awkward individual (*lit.* an ass on the harp/lyre)  
 at spes non fracta — but hope is not crushed/broken  
 audaces fortuna iuvat — fortuna helps/favours the bold  
 audentes fortuna iuvat — fortuna helps/favours the bold  
 audi alteram partem — hear/listen to the other side  
 audiatur et altera pars — let the other side also be heard  
 aurea mediocritas — the golden/happy mean [middle way]  
 auri sacra fames — the accursed craving for money (*lit.* the sacred hunger of gold)  
 auspiciu melioris aevi — a sign of a better age [to come]  
 aut Caesar aut nullus — either Caesar or no one  
 aut inveniam viam aut faciam — either I shall find a way or I shall make one  
 aut vicere aut mori — victory or death (*lit.* either to conquer or to die)  
 auxilium ab alto — help from on high  
 Ave Imperator, morituri te salutant — Hail, Emperor, those about to die [in the arena] salute  
     you  
 a verbis ad verbera — from words to blows  
 avito viret honore — she/he flourishes on the honours on his ancestors  
 Ave Maria — Hail Mary (the first words of a Catholic prayer)

## B

bella matribus detetsta — wars hated by mothers  
 bellum internecinum — a war of extermination  
 bene orasse est bene studuisse — to have prayed well is to have studied well  
 bene placet — it meets with approval (*lit.* it pleases well)  
 bis dat qui cito dat — who give quickly gives twice  
 bis pueri senes — old men are boys twice  
 bona fide — in good faith  
 bona fides — in law, sincerity or the honest intention (*lit.* good faith)  
 brevi manu — extemporaneously, without thought or preparation (*lit.* with a short hand)  
 brevis esse laboro, obscurus fio — I become obscure when I try to be brief  
 brutum fulmen — a harmless thunderbolt

## C

cadit questio — there is no more discussion on an issue (*lit.* the question /proposition falls)  
 caeca est invidia — envy is blind  
 caelum non animum mutant qui trans mare currunt (*lit.* they change their sky but not their  
 feeling who go overseas)  
 caetera desunt — here there is a break in proceedings (*lit.* the rest is wanting)  
 caeteris paribus — all things being equal  
 candida pax — white (robed) peace  
 cantabit vacuus coram latrone viator — the penniless have nothing to lose (*lit.* the  
 destitute will sing before the highway robber)  
 cantate Domino — sing ye to the Lord  
 caput mortuum — worthless residue (*lit.* a dead head)  
 carent quia vate sacro — they lose out with no poet (to sing their praises)  
 carpe diem — take the opportunity, enjoy the day (*lit.* grasp the day)  
 casus belli — what justifies or causes war (*lit.* a case of war)  
 causa sine qua non — an essential condition (*lit.* a condition without which)  
 cave canem — beware (of) the dog  
 caveat emptor — let the buyer beware  
 cavendo tutus — safe through caution  
 cedant arma togae — let the military yield to the civil (*lit.* let arms yield to togas)  
 censor morum — a censor of morals  
 cetera desunt — here there is a break in proceedings (*lit.* the rest is wanting)  
 ceteris paribus — all things being equal  
 clarior e tenebris — clearer from obscurity  
 clarum et venerabile nomen — a famous and venerable name  
 cocullus non facit monachum — don't trust appearances (*lit.* the cowl does not make the  
 monk)  
 cogito, ergo sum — I think, therefore I am/exist.  
 comitas inter gentes — politeness between nations  
 commune bonum — a /the common good  
 commune periculum concordia parit — a common danger begets harmony

communi consensu — by common consent  
 communibus annis — on an annual average  
 componere lites — to settle quarrels /cases at law  
 compos mentis — sound of mind  
 compos voti — having obtained one's wish  
 concio ad clerum — preaching to the converted (*lit.* a sermon to the clergy)  
 concordia discors — discordant harmony  
 confido et conquiesco — I trust and am at peace  
 coniunctis viribus — with united powers  
 consensus facit legem — consent makes laws  
 consilio et animis — by wisdom and courage  
 consilio et prudentia — by wisdom and prudence  
 constantia et virtute — through constancy and bravery/virtue  
 consuetudo pro lege servatur — custom is held as law  
 contra bona mores — against good manners  
 copia verborum — a (rich) supply of words  
 coram nobis — in our presence, before us  
 coram non iudice — before one who is not a proper judge  
 coram populo — before the people  
 corrigenda — things to be corrected /amended  
 corruptio optimie pessima — a corruption of what is best is the worst (one of all)  
 cos ingeniorum — a flint for wits  
 crambe repetita — a truism /old joke repeated (*lit.* cabbage repeated)  
 credat Judeus Apella — tell that to the marines (*lit.* let Apella the Jew believe that)  
 crede quod habes, et habes — believe that you have it, and you do  
 credo quia absurdum — I believe it because it is absurd  
 credo quia impossibile est — I believe it because it is impossible  
 crescit amor nummi, quantum ipsa pecunia crescit — the love of wealth grows as one's money  
     does  
 crescit eundo — it increases as it goes  
 crescit sub pondere virtus — virtue increases under oppression (the McCann family motto)  
 crimen falsi — the crime of perjury (*lit.* the crime of falsehood)  
 crimen laesae majestatis — leze — majesty, the crimen of high treason (*lit.* the crime of  
     injury of the monarch)  
 crux — a puzzle, a difficulty (*lit.* a cross)  
 crux criticorum — the puzzle of critics  
 crux medicorum — a puzzle for medical doctors  
 cui bono — to what good, to whose advantage, to what end  
 cui fortuna ipsa cedit — to whom Fortune herself yields  
 cuilibet in arte sua credendum est — each man in his own specialisation is to be believed  
 culpam poena premit comes — punishment comes hard on the heels of crime  
 cum bona venia — by your kind leave /permission  
 cum grano salis — with a grain of salt  
 cum multis aliis — with many others  
 cum notis variorum — with the notes of various (commentators)  
 cum privilegio — with licence /privilege from authority

curiosa felicitas — a happy expression / turn of phrase  
 currente calamo — with a hasty /rapid hand (*lit.* with a running pen)  
 custos morum — the guardian of morals /manners

## D

da locum melioribus — give way to your betters  
 damnant quod non intelligunt — they condemn what they do not understand  
 dare pondus fumo — to give impotence to trivia (*lit.* to give weight to smoke)  
 data et accepta — expenses and receipts  
 date obolum Belesario — to help the poor (*lit.* to give a farthing to Belesarius)  
 Davus sum, non Oedipus — I am bad at puzzles (*lit.* I am Davus, not Oedipus)  
 de bono augure — with a good omen /sign  
 deceptio visus — an optical illusion  
 decet verecundum esse adolescentum — it becomes a young person to be modest  
     repetita placebit — repeated ten times, it will still please  
 decipimur specie recti — we are deceived by the show of righteousness  
     avito — he adds distinction to his ancestry  
 de die in diem — from day to day  
 de facto — in fact, in point of fact, actually  
 de gustibus non est disputandum — there is no accounting for taste (*lit.* there is no disputing  
     after taste)  
 Dei gratia — by the grace of God  
 de integro — from the beginning, from the start, afresh, anew  
 de jure — by right, by law  
 delenda est Cartago — Carthage must be destroyed (*lit.* deleted)  
 de minimis non curat lex — the law does not concern itself with trivia  
 de mortuis, nihil nisi bonum — (to speak) of the dead, nothing but good (Tertullian)  
 de nihilo, nihil fit — from nothing, nothing is made  
 de novo — afresh, anew  
 de omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis — of all and certain other things  
 de profundis — from /out of the depths (the first words of Psalm 129)  
 Deo adjuvante — with God assisting  
 Deo duce — with God as leader  
 Deo favente — God favouring  
 Deo gratias — thanks (be) to God  
 Deo juvante — with God helping, with God's help  
 Deo volente — God willing, by God's will  
 Deo, non fortuna — from God, not from chance  
 desunt caetera — there is more to follow (*lit.* the rest is wanting)  
 detur digniori — let it be given to the more worthy  
 detur pulchriori — let it be given to the more beautiful  
 Deus advertat — God forbid!  
 Deus ex machina — a solution for the impossible problem (*lit.* God from a machine)  
 Deus vobiscum! — God be with you  
 Deus vult — God wishes it  
 dictum factum — no sooner said than done (*lit.* said done)

dies non — a day on which a court does not sit  
 digito monstrari — a person of note (*lit.* with the finger to be pointed out)  
 dignus vindice nodus — a difficulty worthy of note  
 Dii majorum gentium — the twelve Gods of the upper (Roman) classes  
 Dii penates — the (Roman) household Gods  
 Diis aliter visum — fate willed /thought differently (*lit.* seen otherwise by the Gods)  
 divide et impera — divide and rule  
 do ut des — I give so that you may give, reciprocal arrangement  
 docendo discimus — by teaching, we learn  
 Dominus vobiscum — the Lord be with you  
 domus et placens uxor — a house and a pleasing wife  
 dramatis personae — (the cast of) characters in a play  
 ducit amor patriae — the love of country leads (me on)  
 dulce domum — back homewards, sweet home  
 dulce est disipere in loco — it is pleasant (at times) to play the fool  
 dulce et decorum est pro patria mori — it is pleasant and proper to die for the county (the first line of Horace's Ode, II,13)  
 dum spiro, spero — where there's life, there's hope (*lit.* while I breathe, I hope)  
 dum vivimus, vivamus — live life to the full (*lit.* while we live, let us live)  
 durante bene placito — at the pleasure of (*lit.* during good pleasure)  
 durante vita — for life (*lit.* during life)

## E

e contra — on the other hand (*lit.* from against)  
 e pluribus unum — from many, one (the motto of the United States of America)  
 e re nata — according to the need (*lit.* born from the thing)  
 Ecce homo! — behold the man (Pontius Pilate's words about Christ, *cf. Jn.* 19,5)  
 Ecce signum" — behold the sign  
 editio princeps — the first printed edition of a book  
 et rex meus — my king and I  
 Eheu! — alas!  
 elapso tempore — the time having elapsed  
 emeritus /emerita — a retired or pensioned off person (m./f.) after long and faithful service  
 eo animo — with that purpose (*lit.* with that mind)  
 eo nomine — by that name  
 epulis accumbere divum — to sit at the banquet of the gods  
 ererpta — extracts  
 errare humanum est — to err is human  
 errata — errors noted and corrected  
 erratum — an error noted and corrected  
 esse, quam videri — to see, rather than to seem (be seen) to be  
 est modus in rebus — there is a middle way /medium in (all) things  
 esto quod esse videris — be what you seem to be  
 et caetera — and so on (*lit.* and the rest)  
 et cetera — and so on (*lit.* and the rest)

et hoc genus omne — and everything of the kind  
 et id genus omen — and everything of the kind  
 et sequentes / et sequentia — and the following  
 et sic de ceteris — and so of the rest  
 et sic de similibus — and so of the similar  
 et tu, Brute — and you (as well), Brutus (Julius Caesar's words to his murderer)  
 eventus stultorum magister — fools are taught by results (*lit.* events (are) the teacher of fools)  
 ex — from, out of (Latin preposition)  
 ex abrupto — suddenly  
 ex abundantia — out of abundance, generosity ex adverso — on the other side  
 ex aequo et bono — from what is fair and good  
 ex animo — sincerely, honestly (*lit.* from the spirit)  
 ex auctoritate mihi comissa — by virtue of the authority entrusted on me  
 ex capite — from memory (*lit.* from the head)  
 ex cathedra — with (Papal) teaching authority (*lit.* from the chair)  
 ex concessio — from what has been conceded in the argument ex curia — out of court  
 ex delicto — from the crime  
 ex dono — by way of gift (*lit.* from the gift)  
 ex facto jus oritur — the law springs from the fact  
 ex gratia — as a favour rather than as a right or obligation (*lit.* from a favour)  
 ex hypothesi — a proposition without assumption (*lit.* from a hypothesis)  
 ex libris — a label pasted on the front page of a book by the owner (*lit.* out of the books)  
 ex mera gratia — by mere favour  
 ex mero motu — by (one's own) free will /impulse  
 ex more — according to custom  
 ex necessitate rei — from the need /necessity of the matter  
 ex nihilo — out of nothing  
 ex officio — by right attaching to a position, status or office (*lit.* from the office)  
 ex opere operato — by the outward acts  
 ex parte — a petition by one interested party in a legal case (*lit.* from the side of)  
 ex pede Herculem — we calculate the whole from the sample (*lit.* from the foot, Hercules)  
 ex post facto — retroactively, with retrospective force (*lit.* from an after deed)  
 ex professo — admittedly (*lit.* professedly)  
 ex propriis — from /out of one's own (means / resources)  
 ex quocunque capite — for whatever reason  
 ex silentio — in the absence of contrary evidence (*lit.* out of silence)  
 ex tacito — silently, tacitly  
 ex tempore — on the spur of the moment (*lit.* out of time)  
 ex ungue, leonem — we calculate the whole from the sample (*lit.* from the nail, the lion)  
 ex uno, discunt omnes — from one, all learn  
 ex usu — by use  
 ex vi termini — by virtue /force of the word /term  
 ex voto — by vow, according to a prayer /vow, an action following a promise (*lit.* out of a  
     vow)  
 excelsior — higher, taller  
 exceptio probat regulam — the exception proves the rule excreta — body wastes, especially



urine and faeces

exeat — a permission to leave a college or diocese

Exegi monumentum aere perennius — I have raised a monument more lasting than brass (the first line of Horace's Ode III, 30)

exempla sunt odiosa — examples are odious /offensive exempli gratia — by way of example

exit — a door to leave a building (*lit.* he/she went out)

exitus acta probat — the outcome proves the deeds experientia docet stultos — experience teaches fools

experimentum crucis — a trying matter /trial (*lit.* an experiment of the cross)

experto crede — believe in the expert

expertus metuit — having experience it, he now fears it

extinctus amabitur idem — dead, he will be loved the same

## F

fugaces labuntur anni — the fleeting years pass by

## G

gratis — without charge, for free

## I

imprimi potest — it is allowed to be published

imprimatur — a Catholic ecclesiastical permission of a work to be published (*lit.*, it may be published), by extension — an official approval

## M

mutatis mutandis — the necessary things having been changed

## N

nihil obstat — nothing stands in the way (of the work being published), ecclesiastical approval for a work to be printed.

## P

pace — by consent /permission /leave of, not to give offence to

pace tua — by you leave /consent /permission

per capita — by head of population (L. caput, head, plural, capita) Usually used in the plural in economic matters.

per caput — by head (of population).

pro bono — for free, no charge, (*lit.* for the good)

## Q

quod vide — please refer to (*lit.* see it)

quondam — sometime in the past, formerly, once.

## S

scilicet — namely, to wit (abbreviated at times to sc. or scil.)(q.v.)

sine qua non — an essential condition — abbreviation of 'causa sine qua non', (q.v.)

sub judice — popular abbreviated form of adhuc sub judice lis est (q.v.)

## V

Vade Mecum — a prayer book for journeys (*lit.* Go with me)

versus — Latin preposition 'against', used in games Team A v. Team B.