

# HOW TO BE FREAKING AWESOME IN LATIN CLASS!

If you want to maintain a really strong footing in Latin class throughout the year, among the most important things you can do are the following:

1. **Always do your homework conscientiously.** This is really one of the keys to success in Latin class. If there is any assignments you have missed, by all means you should go back and do them! For many of them you will still be able to receive partial (or even full) credit. For all of them, doing them will positively impact your performance in this class and on assessments. *And whatever work you do (reading, vocabulary work, exercises) ALWAYS READ ALOUD!*
2. Try your best to **always follow along to all the Latin that spoken/read in class.** If there's something you don't understand, *ask!* Also, **if I write anything on the board (charts, etc.) you should copy it down into your notebook.**
3. **Do EVERYTHING that is suggested in the study guides before all quizzes and tests.** Our study guides are very thorough and always end with a section "What should I do to prepare for this quiz/test." Following these suggestions conscientiously will be one of the best things you can do for your assessment grades. *The key is that you budget time to do it!*

**But! There is really much more you should do if you want to develop a really strong ability in the language (and hence stay on top of the class grade-wise).** Remember, learning a language is not like doing crossword puzzles ("Oh, I did that puzzle already!"). *Truly* learning a language requires being exposed to a *massive* amount of input. For a language like Latin that is no longer spoken from mother to child, our primary means of exposure to the language is by *reading and/or listening to audio recordings.* This means that one of the very best things you can do to strengthen your Latin skills globally is to go back to previous textbook readings and *try your very best to read with understanding.* Of course, explicit vocabulary study (especially using Memrise which uses spaced repetition and audio) complements rereading, as does redoing our textbook exercises. **Keeping these points in mind, here are several extremely valuable things you can do above and beyond simply doing your homework (in order of importance):**

1. **Reread a little bit every day.** Go back to a point in the textbooks *just before* the reading starts getting tough for you, **read the Latin ALOUD and try your best to understand as you read.** After each sentence, try closing your eyes and try repeating the sentence from memory. Use the answer keys posted on Google Classroom if you're stuck on the meaning of anything. **After you're sure you understand what every word means, double check that you know the form of each word and why it's being used. Then reread aloud again!**
2. While you're reading, it would also be extremely helpful to **listen to the audio recordings at the same time.** Remember the more, senses we involve the more effective our vocabulary acquisition will be. And because you can't watch movies and the like in Latin, listening to audio while you read is even more important than in modern languages. I have versions posted on YouTube as well as mp3 files:  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqszOrihESDm81eFbA6Z2ykCgSfjf7f\\_q](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqszOrihESDm81eFbA6Z2ykCgSfjf7f_q)  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B-T9CiQVKLivMmZCaHpqZEVISnM>
3. **Regularly review vocabulary in Memrise, even when not assigned for homework.** Once per week or so you may be asked to "learn" words in Memrise for a specific chapter. This alone is not

enough, however, as there are hundreds of words that we learn for the year and it is imperative that you do not lose the ones previously learned. To keep everything fresh in your mind, you will have to use the **Review** functions in Memrise. The best thing would be to follow Memrise's suggestions as to when to use **Speed Review** and when to use **Classic Review** (using exclusively one or the other would not be optimal). A good (if somewhat ambitious) goal would be to make sure that Memrise also says that nearly 100% of the words you've learned so far are in your long-term memory. *Also, please pay attention to the context sentences while you are studying (since these are the sentences I uses on quizzes!) and always have your audio on!*

4. **Periodically revisit the charts from earlier in the year.** Whenever you're reminded that there's a chart you're a bit fuzzy on ("boy, I don't recognize that form," or "I think I've forgotten this") go back and review the chart in question (always *aloud!*). Doing this may only take a half minute or so. *But if you do it regularly, it will pay very rich rewards in the long run.*
5. **Redo some of the exercises from earlier in the book.** Pick a chapter where you feel the material starts to get tough and then just redo the exercises from scratch (using the answer keys on Google Classroom to check your work). This is a great way to ensure that you're staying on top of the grammar and morphology. And, as always, READ ALOUD as you work!

Remember, this list is in descending order of importance. Rereading, listening, and reviewing vocabulary are the most important things you can do. Numbers 4 & 5 can be extremely powerful forms of review, but only if you are doing numbers 1-3 a lot!

**And, please ... come to my extra help day on Wednesdays**