

Book of the Ancient Romans Vocabulary Dictionary

*Latin Vocabulary marked by an asterisk

-A-

Abject - extremely bad, unpleasant, and degrading

Accession - the attainment or acquisition of a position of rank or power

Adherent - someone who supports a particular party, person, or set of ideas

Aedile* - magistrate appointed to look after the welfare of the city

Agrarian - related to cultivating land

Apparition - the appearance of something remarkable or unexpected

Aqueduct - an artificial channel for conveying water

Asunder - apart, divided

Attainder - the forfeiture of land and civil rights as a consequence for treason

Augur - Roman religious official

Augury - a sign of what will happen in the future

Auspice - divine or prophetic sign

Austere - having no comforts or luxuries

-B-

Barbarian - community or tribe not belonging to empire

Battery - a fortified place for weapons

Brazier - pan for holding burning coals

Bulla - an amulet given to Roman boys on ninth day of birth

-C-

Calumny - the making of false statements in order to damage someone's reputation

Canker - to become infected with corrupting influence

Canton - subdivision of a country

Canvass - to solicit votes from

Caparison - ornamental covering spread over a horse's saddle or harness

Cassia - a tree or shrub that was grown for medicinal drugs or other products

Character - the mental and moral distinctives of a person

Circus Maximus* - arena for horse racing and other events

Clemency - mercy, lenience

Cloister - a covered walk

Comitia Centuriata* - voting body made up of Roman centuries (military groups)

Comitia Curiata* - assembly of patricians who elected the king, passed laws, and helped judge

Commiserate - to sympathize

Commodious - beneficial, useful

Concourse - a crowd or assembly

Confiscate - to take or seize with authority

Conspicuous - standing out so as to be clearly visible

Consternation - feelings of anxiety or dismay

Contemptuous - expressing extreme contempt; scornful

Cornet - brass instrument like a trumpet that is shorter and wider

Curule - special chair symbolizing the king's authority

-D-

Dardan - Trojan

Dearth - a scarcity or lack of something

Deftly - skillfully and quickly (in one's movement)

Delator - someone who reports an offense or a crime

Depose - to remove from office suddenly and forcefully

Deputation - a group of people appointed to undertake a mission for a larger group

Di penates* - household gods invoked in domestic rituals

Distaff - a stick or spindle for winding wool or flax

Diocese - a district under the pastoral care of a bishop

Drachma - money coin of ancient Rome

Drudgery - hard, menial work

-E-

Envoy - a messenger or representative

Equestrian - related to horses; order of Roman businessmen who had provided war horses

Espy - to catch sight of

-F-

Fife - a kind of small shrill flute

-G-

Gilt - thin layer of gold paint applied to a surface

Grotto - a cave

Guild - an association of craftsmen or merchants

-H-

Horde - a large group or crowd

-I-

Imperium* - absolute power

Indemnity - a sum of money paid as one condition of peace

Indolence - laziness

Interdict - to prohibit or forbid

Interregnum - a period when normal government is suspended

-K-

Kine - a group of cows

-L-

Lavish - extravagant

Lictor - an officer of the king who carried his symbol of power (fasces)

Ludi romani* - Roman games held in fall

-M-

Malefactor - a person who commits a crime or some other wrong

Morose - sullen and ill-tempered

Munificence - being larger or more generous than is usual or necessary

-N-

Nave - central space set off with steps or rails

-O-

Obscure - not easily expressed or understood

Omen - an event regarded as a sign for good or evil

Ostentation - a pretentious and vulgar display of wealth and luxury meant to impress

-P-

Papyrus - plant used in sheets for writing in ancient world

Parchment - animal skin that was used as a writing surface

Pauper - a very poor person

Pedantic - concerned with minor details

Perfidy - deceitfulness

Placid - calm and peaceful

Plebeian - Roman commoner

Plighted - solemnly promised or pledged

Pontifex Maximus* - chief of the college of priests

Portico - a porch attached to building with roof and evenly spaced columns

Praetor * - magistrate appointed to act as judge

Precipice - a very steep cliff

Princep* - "first citizen"; official title for Roman emperor

Pro-consul or praetor* - Roman magistrates sent to govern the Roman provinces

Procure - to obtain with care or effort

Profusion - an abundance or large quantity of something

Pyrrhic - won at too great a cost to have been worthwhile

-Q-

Quaestor* - magistrate appointed to help the consuls with the treasury

Quinquereme - a ship or galley with five banks of oars

-R-

Rampart - a defensive wall of a city

Rapt - completely fascinated by what one is seeing or hearing

Reconnoitre - to make a military observation

Redress - to remedy or set right

Retinue - a group of advisers or assistants of an important person

Rivet - to hold something completely so that it cannot move

Romanize - to place under Roman influence and authority

-S-

Sagacity - the quality of keen discernment and good judgment

Sally - a sudden charge out of a besieged place against an enemy

Self-effacement - not claiming attention for oneself

Stoa - a building with portico or roofed colonnade

Stola - outer garment worn by women to cover tunic

Strain - the sound of a piece of music as it is played or performed

Stupefy - to make someone unable to think or feel properly

-T-

Tabularium* - state record office

Tenement - a room or a set of rooms that form a separate residence within a house

Toga - a loose flowing outer garment covering the whole body

Torrent - a strong and fast-moving stream of water

Train - a series of connected events

Trefoil - a plant or flower with three-lobed leaves

Trireme - a ship or galley with three tiers of oars on each side

Troth - faith or loyalty when pledged in solemn agreement

-U-

Uncouth - lacking good manners

Upbraid - to find fault with; to scold

-V-

Visage - a person's face, especially their form and features

-W-

Ware - an article for sale

Wont - to make accustomed to