



paulātim

Baby Steps toward the Inclusion of Spoken Latin in the Classroom

You don't have to move suddenly to a Latin-only classroom!
Consider incorporating these practices one at a time.

Begin and end every class session in Latin.

- basic greetings: *salvē(te)*, *salvus sīs / salvī sītis*, *valē(te)*
- basic questions: *ut valē(ti)s? quōmodo tē habēs? quid novī?*
- the date: *hodiē est diēs Martis. est diēs quartus mēnsis Aprīlis. crās erit...*
- the weather: *quāle est caelum? caelum est serēnum, nūbilum*, etc.

Teach and use the two big “safety net” phrases.

- *quid significat ____?* (for Latin > English)
- *quōmodo Latīnē dīcī potest ____?* (for English > Latin)

Teach students to ask for help in Latin.

They can then pose the question in English or in Latin, depending on their proficiency.

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| ○ <i>aliquid rogāre volō.</i> | ○ <i>quid est faciendum?</i> |
| ○ <i>iterum, quaesō.</i> | ○ <i>egeō auxiliō.</i> |
| ○ <i>nōn intellegō.</i> | ○ <i>dīc aliter, sōdēs.</i> |

Teach and use basic hand signs. This allows students to communicate needs or even ideas without resorting to English or interrupting the flow of the class. You can make up signs on your own or with students, or you can use ASL (see www.aslpro.com).

- Signs for ‘slow down,’ ‘repeat that please,’ ‘time out,’ ...

Build from basic to complex commands with Total Physical Response (TPR)

- *surge. saltā. dormī. saltā et dormī...simul! sūme librum. dā librum amīcae...*
- *Anna, ī ad ianuam et eam aperī. Ioannes, iānuā apertā, pulsā mēnsam ter...*
- *sī/nisi hodiē ientavistī, tange fenestram pollice sinistrō...pedis!*

Teach and use classroom instructions in Latin.

- *dēprōmite calamōs,*
- *chartam, domī scrīpta*
- *aperīte libros*
(*ad pāginam octāvam*)
- *quaesō legās hanc periodum*
- *scrībite*
- *respondēte*
- *dēlineāte/pingite*
- *imitāminī*
- *repōnite omnia*

Teach students to ask for permission to leave the classroom in Latin.

- *licetne mihi īre ad lātrīnam / ad locum sēcrētum?*
- *licetne mihi īre ad fonticulum / ad sīlānum?*
- *licetne mihi īre ad armārium?*
- *licetne mihi īre ad praesidem scholae?*
- *licetne mihi īre ad īferōs? ☺*

Teach Latin interjections. You might create a poster with some of these.
(The fun sounds can have a powerful effect on classroom culture!)

- of praise: *macte! bene/optimē (factum/dictum/scrīptum/pictum/lēctum)!*
- of dismay: *ēheu! vae! malum!*
- of disbelief/disgust: *nūgae! quisquiliae! fu!*
- of abuse: *(ab)ī in malam rem! caudex! pestis! furcifer!*
- generic: *heus! (me)herc(u)le! edepol! dī immortalēs! attat! papae!*
- If you don't mind using English idioms with Latin words for humor, you and your students can devise expressions such as *excrēmentum (sacrum, bubulum, etc.), mordē mē, etc.* N.b. *stercus* is a term of abuse referring to a person, not the interjection s***, which is best expressed simply by *malum*.

Celebrate students' use of Latin. *macte! pulchrē dictum! optimē factum! bene rogāstī!*
And don't underestimate the power of a smile or of a hand touching their desk.

Ask Latin comprehension questions about texts. This highly scriptable: You can write questions in advance and students can use the language of the text itself in their answers. You may be using a textbook series for which Latin comprehension questions are already available, e.g., *Cambridge Latin Course*, *Ecce Romani*, or *Lingua Latina Per Se Illustrata*. If not, simply focus on the classic *quis, quid, quae, cūr, ubi, quot, quālis, ad quem fīnem*, etc. It can be helpful to have these words on the wall with English translations and point to them when asking questions. For ideas on building from simple to more complex questions and conversations, see Bailey, "The Ars of Latin Questioning: Circling, Personalization, and Beyond" (*Classical Outlook* 91.1 [2016]:1-5).

Make a note of words or phrases you or students frequently find yourselves using or wanting to use, find out how to say them in Latin (using a dictionary [for modern terms, try the Morgan-Owens *Adumbratio Lexici Anglico-Latini*], a Facebook group such as [Teaching Latin for Acquisition](#), or a listserv such as [latin-bestpractices](#) or the Rusticatio alumni list), and begin using them in Latin. You might have an official place in the room where such phrases are written by you or by a student.

For more ideas, see <http://indwellinglanguage.com/limen-a-latin-teaching-portal/>