

# Prima Latina



## 2ND EDITION

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## Practical Latin

Salve!  
Salvete!

– Hello! (to one person)  
– Hello! (to more than one person)

## Lesson – The Alphabet

The building blocks of any language are the letters used to make words.

### The English Alphabet

There are *26 letters* in the English alphabet.

The **alphabet** is made up of two types of letters:

**vowels** and

**consonants**

**A, E, I, O, U**

**BCD FGH JKLMN PQRST VWXYZ**  
(all letters that are not vowels)

### The Latin Alphabet

The Latin alphabet looks like the English alphabet EXCEPT:

There are only *25 letters* in the Latin alphabet.

The Latin alphabet has no **W**.

Latin has the same vowels as English, **A, E, I, O, U**, but they sound a little different. Here are the Latin vowel sounds.

| <b>Vowel</b> | <b>Latin Sound</b>              |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| A            | <i>ah</i> , as in <i>father</i> |
| E            | <i>ay</i> , as in <i>way</i>    |
| I            | <i>ee</i> , as in <i>see</i>    |
| O            | <i>oh</i> , as in <i>no</i>     |
| U            | <i>oo</i> , as in <i>boo</i>    |

#### \*\* Remember

Latin **E** sounds like an English long **A**.

Latin **I** sounds like an English long **E**.



## Vocabulary

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Practice saying the Latin **vowels** in each word.

|           |        |
|-----------|--------|
| 1. ambulo | I walk |
| 2. via    | road   |
| 3. Deus   | God    |
| 4. toga   | toga   |
| 5. luna   | moon   |

## Latin Prayers

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### Oremus

Say this before each prayer.

### Let us pray

## Derivatives

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|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <i>ambulance</i> | a vehicle to carry those who cannot walk to the hospital (n.) |
| <i>viaduct</i>   | a roadway or bridge on piers (n.)                             |
| <i>deity</i>     | a god (n.)  |
| <i>lunar</i>     | having to do with the moon (adj.)                             |



## EXERCISES for Lesson I

### Review Questions

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1. How many letters are in the English alphabet? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many letters are in the Latin alphabet? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What letter is missing from the Latin alphabet? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What are the two kinds of letters in the English alphabet? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Translation

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1. toga \_\_\_\_\_
2. Deus \_\_\_\_\_
3. ambulo \_\_\_\_\_
4. luna \_\_\_\_\_
5. via \_\_\_\_\_

### Speaking Latin

 Listen to the Lesson 1 track on your Prima Latina CD. 

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- Practice saying the Latin vowel sounds in order: *ah, ay, ee, oh, oo*  
Can you say them five times in a row?  
How fast can you correctly say them?
- Practice saying “Salve” or “Salvete” to your parents, brothers and sisters, or friends this week.
- Begin the prayer before each meal with “Oremus.”
- Say each vocabulary word and its meaning five times.



## Write and Learn

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1. Write out the English alphabet.

Circle the vowels and underline the consonants.

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2. Write out the Latin alphabet for practice. Make sure to leave out or cross out the **W**!

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3. Write each vocabulary word and its meaning twice.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Fun Practice:** Draw a line to match the letter with its Latin sound.

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A

I

U

E

O

ah

ee

ay

oh

oo