

## STEM LIST

While the number of words in the Latin dictionary is large, the number of frequently occurring stems is not. Familiarity with them is one of the best means to enlarge a beginner's vocabulary, especially when used together with a study of prefixes and suffixes. Stems and prefixes undergo, however, certain sound changes according to their environment. The sounds, and therefore the spellings, of many Latin words and their English derivatives are determined by **vowel weakening** and by **assimilation**. By reference to meaning and sound changes you will learn to recognize the stems of many Latin words.

### Vowel Weakening

Vowel weakening is a universal feature. For example, the vowel *a* in the English word *land* is weakened in the compound *England*. In the compound word *Newfoundland* the vowels in both *found* and *land* are weakened so that the word is pronounced something like *Newfndl'nd*. In Latin there are four main patterns of vowel weakening. These can be observed in some of the compound words to be entered in the stem list.

- short *a* becomes *i*, e.g., *cado* --> *incido*
- short *a* becomes *e*, e.g., *capio captus*--> *recipio, receptus*
- short *e* becomes *i*, e.g., *lego* --> *colligo*
- *ae* becomes *i\*, e.g., *caedo* --> *inci\do*

### Assimilation

Assimilation is most obvious in compound words where prefixes assimilate (i.e., become similar) to the initial consonant of a stem with which they are compounded. The very word *assimilation* is a compound of the prefix *ad-* and the stem *simil*. This explains variations like *adduco*, *accurro*, *affero*, *assisto*, *attendo*, all of which have the prefix *ad-*. A combination of vowel weakening and assimilation explain words like *acceptus* where *adcaptus* would be expected.

**Latin 231 - Stem List**

<b>AC</b>	<b>SHARP</b>
acuo, acuere, acui, acutus: to make sharp acer, acris, acre: sharp	
<b>AED</b>	<b>BUILD</b>
(no base verb) aedis, -is: a building	
<b>AEQU</b>	<b>LEVEL</b>
aequo, aequare, aequavi, aequatus: to make equal, make level	
<b>AG / ACT</b>	<b>DO</b>
ago, agere, egi, actus: to do, drive	
<b>AGR</b>	<b>SURFACE / LOCAL LAND</b>
(no base verb) ager, agri: land, cultivated field	
<b>AL</b>	<b>NOURISH</b>
alo, alere, alui, alitus: to nourish	
<b>AL / ALI</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
(no base verb) alius, a, ud: another, other	
<b>AM / AMAT</b>	<b>LOVE</b>
amo, amare, amavi, amatus: to love	
<b>ANIM</b>	<b>BREATH / SPIRIT</b>
animo, animare, animavi, animatus: to make alive, animate	
<b>ARD / ARS</b>	<b>BURN</b>
ardeo, ardere, arsi: to burn, be on fire	

<b>AUD / AUDIT</b>	<b>HEAR</b>
audio, audire, audivi, auditus: to hear	
<b>AUD / AUS</b>	<b>DARE</b>
audeo, audere, ausus sum (semi-deponent): to dare	
<b>AUG / AUCT</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>
augeo, augere, auxi, auctus: to increase	
<b>CAD / CAS</b>	<b>FALL</b>
cado, cadere, cecidi, casurus: to fall	
<b>CAED / CAES</b>	<b>CUT / FELL</b>
caedo, caedere, cecidi, caesus: to cut down	
<b>CAP / CAPT</b>	<b>TAKE</b>
capio, capere, cepi, captus: to seize, take	
<b>CAR / CARIT</b>	<b>LACK</b>
careo, carere, carui, cariturus (+ abl): to lack, be without	
<b>CED / CESS</b>	<b>YIELD / GO</b>
cedo, cedere, cessi, cessurus: to yield, go	
<b>CENS</b>	<b>RATE, ASSESS</b>
censeo, censere, censui, census: to think, suppose	
<b>CERN / CERT / CRET</b>	<b>PERCEIVE</b>
cerno, cernere, crevi, cretus: to discern, see, decide	
<b>CI / CIT</b>	<b>INCITE</b>
cicio, ciere, civi, citus: to move, rouse	
<b>CING / CINCT</b>	<b>SURROUND</b>

cingo, cingere, cinxi, cinctus: to surround, encircle

**CLAUD / CLAUS****CLOSE**

claudio, claudere, clausi, clausus: to shut, close

**COL / CULT****CARE FOR**

colo, colere, colui, cultus: to cultivate

**CORD****HEART**

(no base verb)  
cor, cordis: heart

**CRE / CREAT****BRING FORTH /  
CREATE**

creo, creare, creavi, creatus: to create

**CUB / CUMB****LIE**

cubo, cubare, cubui, cubitus: to lie down, recline

**CUP / CUPIT****WISH**

cupio, cupere, cupivi, cupitus: to want, desire

**CUR / CURAT****CARE**

curo, curare, curavi, curatus: to take care of

**CUT / QUAT****SHAKE**

quatio, quatere, quassi, quassus: to shake

**DA / DAT****GIVE; PUT**

do, dare, dedi, datus: to give

**DEC / DIGN****FITTING**

deceat (+ inf): it is fitting to \_\_\_\_\_  
dignus, a, um: worthy, fitting

**DIC / DICT****SAY / TELL**

dico, dicere, dixi, dictus: to say

**DOC / DOCT****TEACH**

doceo, docere, docui, doctus: to teach

**DOM****TAME**

dominor, dominari, dominatus (deponent):  
to rule, tame  
dominus, -i: lord, master

**DOC / DUCT****LEAD**

duco, ducere, duxi, ductus: to lead

**E / I / IT****GO**

eo, ire, ivi / ii, iturus: to go

**EM / EMPT****BUY**

emo, emere, emi, emptus: to buy

**ES****BE / LIVE**

sum, esse, fui, futurus: to be, exist

**FA / FAT****SPEAK**

for, fari, fatus (deponent): to say, speak

**FAC / FACT****MAKE / DO**

facio, facere, feci, factus: to make, do

**FALL / FALS****DECEIVE**

fallo, fallere, fefelli, falsus: to deceive

**FER / TUL / LAT****CARRY / BEAR**

fero, ferre, tuli, latus: to carry, bear, bring

**FID / FIS****TRUST**

fides, -ei: faith, trust  
fido, fidere, fisus (semi-deponent): to trust

**FING / FICT / FIG****MOLD/FORM**

finco, fingere, finxi, fictus: to shape, mold  
figura, -ae: shape, figure

**FIRM / FORM**

firmitas, firmare, firmavi, firmatus: to make strong, strengthen  
 formo, formare, formavi, formatus: to form, shape, arrange

**STRENGTH****HAB / HABIT**

habeo, habere, habui, habitus: to have

**HAVE****HAER**

haereo, haerere, haesi, haesus: to hang on, stick to

**HANG****FLU / FLUX**

fluo, fluere, fluxi, fluxus: to flow  
 flumen, -inis: river

**FLOW****I / IT**

(see E / I / IT GO)  
 eo, ire, ivi / ii, iturus: to go

**FRANG / FRAG / FRACT BREAK**

frango, frangere, fregi, fractus: to break

**IAC / IACU**

iaceo, iacere, iacui: to lie, lie down

**LIE****FUG / FUGIT**

fugio, fugere, fugi, fugiturus: to flee

**FLEE****IAC / IACT**

iacio, iacere, ieci, iactus: to throw, hurl

**THROW****FUND / FUS**

fundo, fundere, fudi, fusus: to pour

**POUR****IUB / IUSS**

iubeo, iubere, iussi, iussus: to order

**COMMAND/ ORDER****GEN**

gigno, gignere, genui, genitus: to beget, produce

**BIRTH****IUNG / IUNCT / IUG**

iungo, iungere, iunxi, iunctus: to join, unite

**JOIN / BIND****GER / GEST**

gero, gerere, gessi, gestus: to carry, bear, wear

**CARRY / DO****IUR / IUS**

ius, iuris: right, law  
 iuro, iurare, iuravi, iuratus: to swear to / swear by

**JUST / RIGHT / SWEAR****GNO / NO**

nosco, noscere, novi, notus: to get to know, recognize

**LEARN****IUV / IUT**

iuvo, iuvare, iuvi, iutum: to help, please

**HELP****GRAD / GRESS**

gradior, gradi, gressus (deponent): to step, walk

**WALK / STEP****LAB / LAPS**

labor, labi, lapsus sum (deponent): to fall down, glide

**FALL****GRAV**

gravis, grave: heavy, weighty  
 gravo, gravare, gravavi, gravatus: to load, burden

**HEAVY****LABOR**

labor, -oris: work, toil, labor  
 laboro, laborare, laboravi, laboratus: to work, strive

**WORK****LAED / LAES**

laedo, laedere, laesi, laesus: to harm

**HURT**

**LAT** (see **FER / TUL / LAT** **CARRY / BEAR**)

fero, ferre, tuli, latus: to bear

**LEG / LECT** **PICK / READ**

lego, legere, legi, lectus: to choose, read

**LIC / LIQU** **LET**

licet, licere, licuit (+ inf): it is allowed to \_\_\_\_\_

**LINQU / LIQU / LICT** **LEAVE**

linquo, linquere, liqui: to leave

**LOQU / LOCUT** **SPEAK**

loquor, loqui, locutus (deponent): to speak

**MAN / MANS** **STAY**

maneo, manere, mansi, mansurus: to stay, remain

**METU** **FEAR**

metuo, metuere, metui: to fear  
metus, us: fear

**MIR / MIRAT** **WONDER**

miror, mirari, miratus (deponent): to be amazed at

**MIN** **THREATEN**

minor, minari, minatus: to threaten, menace

**MIN / MINU** **DIMINISH**

minuo, minuere, minui, minutus: to make smaller, diminish  
minor, minus: less, smaller

**MITT / MISS** **SEND / LET**

**GO**  
mitto, mittere, misi, missus: to send, let fly

**MOD** **MEASURE**

modus, -i: measure, standard of measurement

moderor, moderari, moderatus (deponent): to regulate, measure

**MON / MONIT** **WARN / ADVISE**

moneo, monere, monui, monitus: to warn

**MOR** **CUSTOM**

(no base verb)

mos, moris: custom, practice, rule

**MOR / MORAT** **DELAY**

moror, morari, moratus (deponent): to delay  
mora, -ae: delay

**MORI / MORT / MORIT** **DIE**

morior, mori, mortuus (deponent): to die  
mors, mortis: death

**MOV / MOT / MOB** **MOVE**

moveo, movere, movi, motus: to move  
mobilis, -e: quick, lively

**NA / NAV** **SWIM**

no, nare, navi: to swim

**NO** (see **GNO / NO** **LEARN**)

nosco, noscere, novi, notus: to know

**NU** **NOD**

innuo, -nuere, -nui, -nutus: to give a nod to  
nuto, nutare, nutavi, nutatus: to keep nodding

**OP** **MEANS / POWER**

(no base verb)

ops, opis: power, might, influence

**OPER****WORK**operor, operari, operatus (deponent):  
to work**OR / ORT****RISE / GROW**

orior, oriri, ortus (deponent): to rise, get up

**OR / OS****SPEAK / MOUTH**os, oris: mouth  
oro, orare, oravi, oratus: to beg, entreat,  
pray**OS****BONE**

os, ossis: bone

**PAND / PASS / PAT****OPEN UP**pando, pandere, pandi, pansus / passus: to  
spread out  
pateo, patere, patui: to lie open**PARA / PARAT****PREPARE**

paro, parare, paravi, paratus: to prepare

**PARC / PARS****SPARE**

parco, parcere, peperci, parsurus: to spare

**PARE****OBEY / APPEAR**pareo, parere, parui, pariturus: to obey;  
appear, become evident**PARI / PART****PRODUCE**pario, parere, peperci, partus: to bear, give  
birth to  
parens, -entis: a parent**PASC / PAST****FEED**

pascio, pascere, pavi, pastus: to feed

**PATI / PASS SUFFER / ENDURE**patior, pati, passus (deponent): to  
experience, suffer, allow**PAU****LITTLE**(no base verb)  
paucus, a, um: small, little; (pl) few**PED****FOOT**(no base verb)  
pes, pedis: foot**PELL / PULS****PUSH**

pello, pellere, pepuli, pulsus: to push

**PEND / PENS****HANG**pendo, pendere, pependi, pensus: to weigh,  
to pay, to consider**PET / PETIT****SEEK**peto, petere, petivi, petitus: to make for,  
search out**PLAC****PLEASE**

placeo, placere, placui, placiturus: to please

**PLE / PLU****FILL**

compleo, complere, complevi, completus: to fill

**PLEC / PLEX****FOLD / WEAVE**

plico, plicare, plicavi, plicatus: to fold, wind

**PON / POSIT****PUT / PLACE**

pono, ponere, posui, positus: to put, place

**POSC / POSTUL****DEMAND**posco, poscere, poposci: to request  
postulo, postulare, postulavi, postulatus: to  
demand, request

**POT**

**POWER**

possum, posse, potui: to be able

**PREHEND / PREHENS**

prehendo,prehendere,prehendi,prehensus:  
to grasp

**CATCH****ROG**

rogo,rogare,rogavi,rogatus: to ask

**ASK****RUMP / RUP / RUPT**

rumpo,rumpere,rupi,ruptus: to break,  
burst

**BREAK****PREM / PRESS**

premo,premere,pressi,pressus: to press

**PRESS****SCAND / SCEND**

scando,scandere,scandi,scansus: to climb

**CLIMB****PROP / PROX**

(no base verb)  
proprius, a um: nearer  
proximus, a, um: nearest

**NEAR****SCI**

scio,scire,scivi,scitus: to know

**KNOW****PU / PUE**

(no base verb)  
puer,pueri: a boy,youth  
puella,-ae: a girl

**YOUTH****SCRIB / SCRIPT**

scribo,scribere,scripsi,scriptus: to write

**WRITE****QUAER / QUAESIT**

quaero,quaerere,quaesivi,quaesitus: to  
ask, search for

**ASK / SEEK****SED / SID**

sedeo,sedere,sedi,sessus: to sit  
sedes,-is: a seat

**SIT****QUAT (see CUT / QUAT SHAKE)**

quatio,quaterere,quassi,quassus: to shake

**SENT / SENS**

sentio,sentire,sensi,sensum: to sense,feel

**DISCERN BY SENSES****RAP / RAPT / RIP**

rapio,rapere,rapui,raptus: to seize and  
carry off,snatch,tear

**SNATCH****SEQU / SECUT / SEC**

sequor,sequi,secutus (deponent): to follow

**FOLLOW****RE / RAT**

reor,eri,ratus sum (deponent): to think,  
suppose  
ratio,rationis: reckoning,calculation

**THINK / REASON****SIMUL / SIMULAT**

simulo,simulare,simulavi,simulatus: to put on the  
appearance of

**PRETEND****SO / SU**

soleo,solere,solitus (semi-deponent,+ inf):  
to be accustomed to \_\_\_\_\_  
consuetudo,-inis: a custom,practice

**CUSTOM****REG/RECT/RIG STRETCH/GUIDE**

rego,regere,rex,rectus: to guide,rule,  
keep in a straight line

**SOLV / SOLUT**

solvo,solvere,solvi,solutus: to loosen,  
release

**SOLVE / LOOSEN****RID / RIS**

rideo,ridere,risi,risus: to laugh

**LAUGH****SON****SOUND**



sono, sonare, sonui, sonitus: to sound,  
make a noise

tego, tegere, texi, tectus: to cover, protect, hide

**SPEC / SPECT**

specto, spectare, spectavi, spectatus: to  
watch

**SEE / SPY****TEN / TENT**

teneo, tenere, tenui, tentus: to hold

**HOLD****TEND / TENS / TENT**

tendo, tendere, tetendi, tensus/tentus: to stretch

**STRETCH****SPES / SPER**

spero, sperare, speravi, speratus: to hope  
spes, spei: hope, expectation

**HOPE****TOLL / TUL**

tollo, tollere, sustuli, sublatus: to raise up,  
lift

**LIFT****SPIR**

spiro, spirare, spiravi, spiratus: to breathe,  
blow  
spiritus, us: breath, breathing

**BREATH****TRA / TRACT**

traho, trahere, traxi, tractus: to drag

**DRAG****STA / STAT**

sto, stare, steti, staturus: to stand

**STAND /****SET****TUL (see FER / TUL / LAT**

ferro, ferre, tuli, latus: to bear

**CARRY /  
BEAR)****UT / US**

utor, uti, usus (deponent): to use

**USE****STREP**

strepo, strepere, strepui, strepitus: to make a  
noise, rattle, crash  
strepitus, -us: a noise, crash

**RATTLE****VAL**

valeo, valere, valui: to be strong

**STRONG****STRU / STRUCT**

struo, struere, struxi, structus: to put in  
order, arrange

**BUILD****VEH / VECT**

veho, vehere, vexi, vectus: to carry, convey  
vehiculum, -i: a wagon, cart, any means of  
transport

**CARRY / RIDE****SUM / SUMPT**

sumo, sumere, sumpsit, sumptus: to take in

**TAKE****VEN / VENT**

venio, venire, veni, ventus: to come

**COME****TAC / TACIT**

taceo, tacere, tacui, tacitus: to be silent

**BE QUIET****VERT / VERS**

verto, vertere, verti, versus: to turn

**TURN****TANG / TACT / TING / TIG**

tango, tangere, tetigi, tactus: to touch

**TOUCH****VI**

(no base verb)  
vis, vis: force, power, might

**FORCE****TEG/TECT****COVER**

**VID / VIS** **SEE**

video, videre, vidi, visus: to see

**VINC / VICT** **CONQUER**

vinco, vincere, vici, victus: to overcome,  
defeat, prevail

**VIV / VIG / VIT** **LIVE / BE****CONSCIOUS**

vivo, vivere, vixi, victus: to live, be alive  
vigil, -ilis: wakeful, watchful  
vita, -ae: life

**VOC / VOCAT** **CALL**

vox, vocis: voice  
voco, vocare, vocavi, vocatus: to call

**VOL** **WISH**

volo, velle, volui (+ inf): to be willing,  
want to \_\_\_\_\_