

a) Preliminary part: core vocabulary

1/ What will you find here?

In this part we present around 997 words that generate approximately the 70% of any standard Latin prose text. The list was created by a team at Dickinson College led by Prof. Christopher Francese using advanced detectors of frequency for each word in the TLL. These are the very basic words that any student should know without hesitation at the end of any standard 1st year course. The words have been distributed here into 32 groups of 16 pairs of words (so, 32 words each group, some just 31), at random, without following any alphabetical or grammatical order, and this "disorder" has been produced on purpose for pedagogical reasons.

2/ How to proceed?

As words are better remembered if used as part of a sentence rather than on their own, we recommend that, after making sure that you know what each two words mean, on the line under it you write a whole sentence containing at least one of the words, however short it may be. For instance, under *taceo* it would be enough to write *Magister repente tacuit*. Of course you can make the sentence more complicated if you want: *Discipulus tacuit magistri iussu*, for example. And the ideal would be a sentence that includes both words, but sometimes the meaning of the two words makes it difficult to produce a combination with some sense. At least make sure you use the one that was less familiar to you.

In the case that the word to be revised is a verb, it is recommended that you write the sentences in the perfect tense, to help you learn it. For example, if you must practise the verb *decerno*, once you know that it means "to decide" do not write just *Caesar pugnare decernit*, try to make the effort of finding out (and learning) its perfect tense in any dictionary and of writing *Caesar pugnare decrevit*. And in the case of a noun or a pronoun or an adjective that presents a difficult declension, like *mare*, do not write just *Mare pulchrum est*, try to make the effort of writing *In mari pisces habitant*, using a declined form.