

## Doce ipsius ut discas Teach yourself that you may learn

Studying Latin is more than language learning

What is Rome's span of time, from start to finish? The answer depends on whom you ask. So, let us consult Mary Beard and her work, SPQR. A History of Ancient Rome. Chapter One opens with **Marcus Tullius Cicero** battling **Lucius Sergius Catilina**

Cicero was a renowned orator, philosopher, politician, jurist and all-round raconteur. Catiline, the opponent, was a disgruntled, bankrupt aristocrat and the alleged conspirator to assassinate Rome's elected officials and – for good measure, burn Rome to the ground. Stirring events in the year 63 BCE

Not satisfied, **Marcus Iunius Brutus** lead 72 co-conspirators in the assassination of **Gaius Iulius Caesar** on the **Idus Martiae**, 44 BCE. Brutus was incensed by Caesar's apparent power-grab. His lineage was *more* ancient. He claimed **Lucius Iunius Brutus** his forebear and consul from the year 509 BCE. Post-assassination **Titus Livius**, poet and historian; was asked to authenticated the **Bruti** claim. Livy side-stepped the issue, the claim was *too distant* to authenticate

Study Latin, explore too Roman history and culture. The journey is absorbing (with the odd drawn dagger from time-to-time)

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The Romans did not have silent reading. In your studies; embrace all senses: *see the word, say the word, hear the word*. To make the journey easier, below are study hints to learning

A study session should be 45 minutes, maximum 60. Then get up from your desk and walk about, stretch and relax. Throughout the day in 15 minutes bursts review and practice

- Vocabulary, study it and put it away. While doing other activities, re-call from memory
- Decline and conjugate, previous and new vocabulary
- Combine vocabulary by constructing sentences to gain familiarity and to develop usage
- Refresh and reinforce, to build capability and comprehension
- Read passages, note the phrasing and grouping of words to acquire their sense and flow of expression
- Switch things about, such as time (tense) and point of view (person and number)
- You are doing more than learning a new language, you're learning new thought patterns
- Make the experience enjoyable, you're in the Forum, with **aut Quintus aut Amelia, aliquid ab aliquo discere**

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Mary Beard concluded her narrative in the year 212 CE. She cited the emperor **Marcus Aurelius Antonius**, known as **Caracalla**, and the **Constitutio Antoniniana** decree that made *all* free men Roman citizens

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Latin transcends Rome. This Website's monthly blog examines Latin by others

