CAMBRIDGE LATIN COURSE

Unit 1

Fifth Edition

Cambridge Latin Course

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Contents

Acknowledgments

The current edition of the *Cambridge Latin Course* is the result of over forty years of research, classroom testing, feedback, revision, and development. In that period millions of students, tens of thousands of teachers, hundreds of experts in the fields of Classics, history, and education, and dozens of authors have contributed to make the Course the leading approach to reading Latin that it is today.

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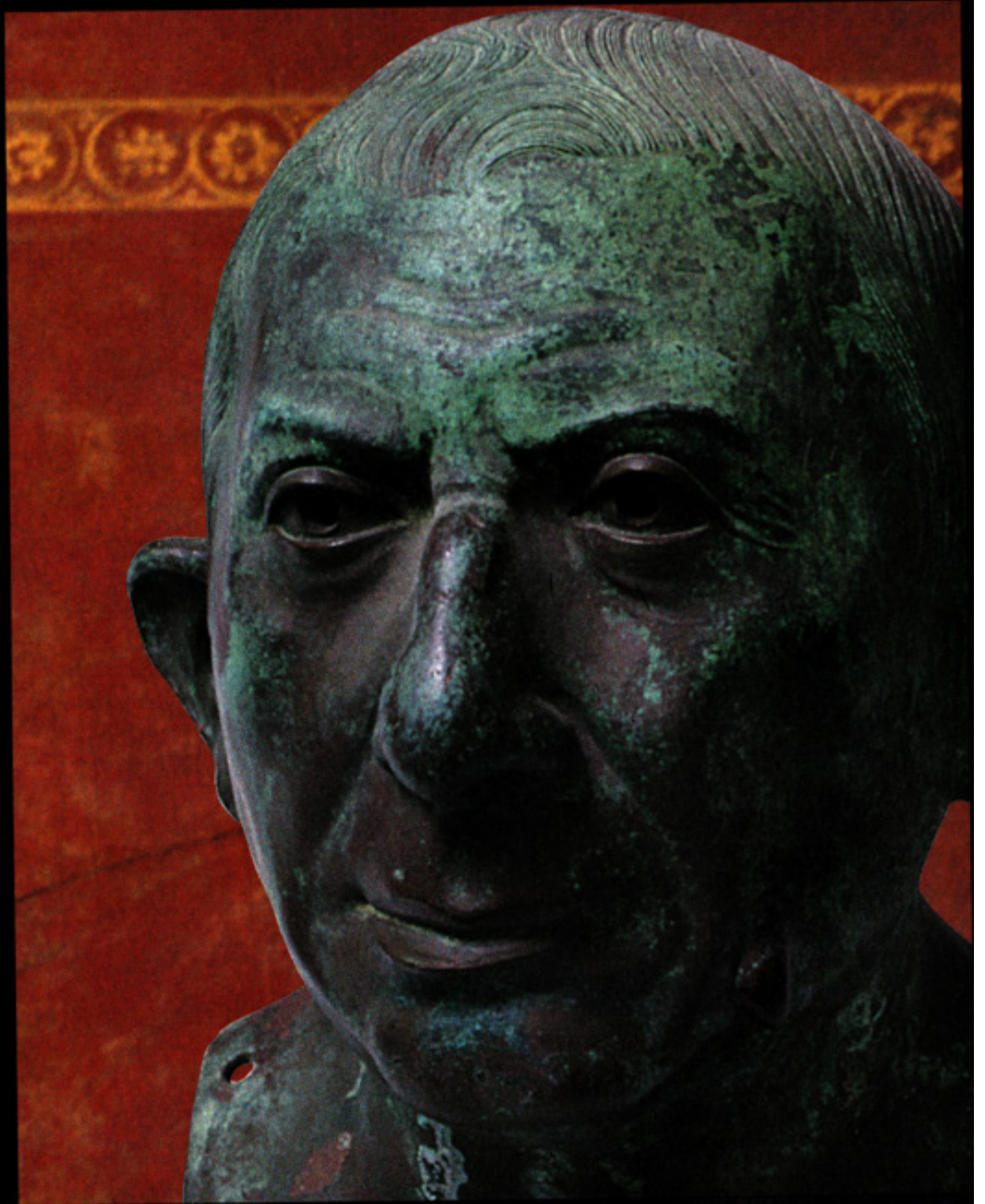
CAECILIUS

familia

1   Caecilius est pater.

2 Metella est māter.

3 Quīntus est fīlius.

4 Lūcia est fīlia.

5 Clēmēns est servus.

6 Grumiō est coquus.

7 Cerberus est canis.

8   Caecilius est in tablīnō.

9   Metella est in ātriō.

10   Quīntus est in triclīniō.
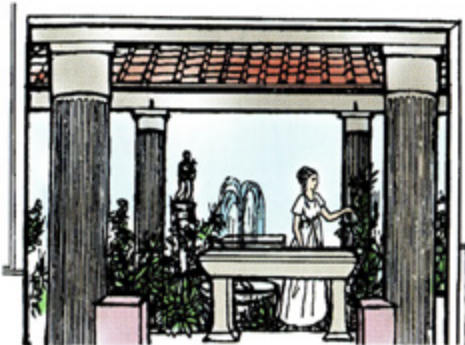
11   Lūcia est in hortō.
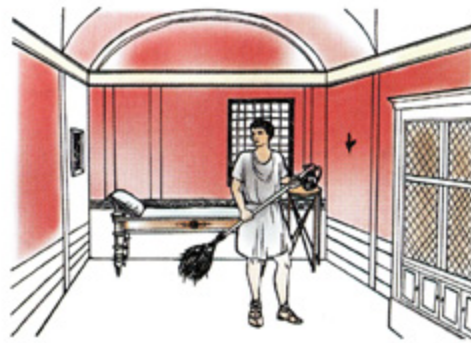
12   Clēmēns est in cubiculō.

13   Grumiō est in culīnā.
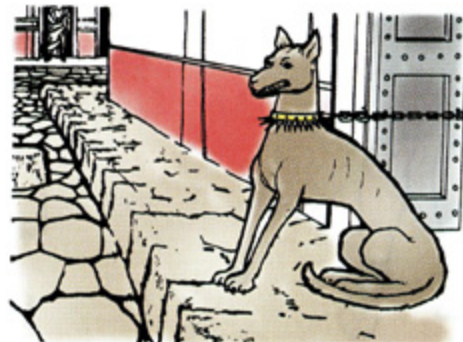
14   Cerberus est in viā.

15 pater est in tablīnō.
pater in tablīnō scrībit.

16 māter est in ātriō.
māter in ātriō sedet.

17 fīlius est in triclīniō.
fīlius in triclīniō bibit.

18 fīlia est in hortō.
fīlia in hortō legit.

19 servus est in cubiculō.
servus in cubiculō labōrat.

20 coquus est in culīnā.
coquus in culīnā labōrat.
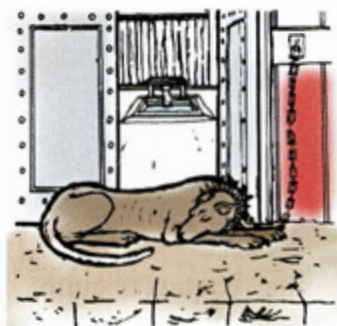
21 canis est in viā.
canis in viā dormit.

Vocabulary

familia	household	**in tablīnō**	in the study	**scrībit**	is writing
est	is	**in ātriō**	in the atrium	**sedet**	is sitting
pater	father		(main room)	**bibit**	is drinking
māter	mother	**in triclīniō**	in the dining room	**legit**	is reading
fīlius	son	**in hortō**	in the garden	**labōrat**	is working
fīlia	daughter	**in cubiculō**	in the bedroom	**dormit**	is sleeping
servus	slave	**in culīnā**	in the kitchen		
coquus	cook	**in viā**	in the street		
canis	dog				

Cerberus

Caecilius est in hortō. Caecilius in hortō sedet. Lūcia est in
hortō. Lūcia in hortō legit. servus est in ātriō. servus in ātriō
labōrat. Metella est in ātriō. Metella in ātriō sedet. Quīntus est
in tablīnō. Quīntus in tablīnō scrībit. Cerberus est in viā.

*Caecilius had this
mosaic of a dog in the
doorway of his house.*

coquus est in culīnā. coquus in culīnā dormit. Cerberus intrat.   5
Cerberus circumspectat. cibus est in mēnsā. canis salit. canis in
mēnsā stat. Grumiō stertit. canis lātrat. Grumiō surgit. coquus
est īrātus. "pestis! furcifer!" coquus clāmat. Cerberus exit.

intrat *enters*
circumspectat *looks around*
cibus *food*
in mēnsā *on the table*
salit *jumps*
stat *stands*
stertit *snores*
lātrat *barks*
surgit *gets up*
īrātus *angry*
pestis! *pest!*
furcifer! *scoundrel!*
clāmat *shouts*
exit *goes out*

About the language

1 Latin sentences containing the word **est** often have the same order as English. For example:

> Metella est māter.
> *Metella is the mother.*

> canis est in viā.
> *The dog is in the street.*

2 In other Latin sentences, the order is usually different from that of English. For example:

> canis in viā dormit.
> *The dog is sleeping in the street.*

> servus in culīnā labōrat.
> *The slave is working in the kitchen.*

3 Note that **dormit** and **labōrat** in the sentences above can be translated in another way. For example: **servus in culīnā labōrat** can mean *The slave works in the kitchen* as well as *The slave is working in the kitchen.* The story will help you to decide which translation gives the better sense.

Practicing the language

Write out each Latin sentence, completing it with a suitable word or phrase from the box. Then translate the sentence. Use each word or phrase only once.

> For example: .... est in cubiculō.
> **servus** est in cubiculō.
> *The slave is in the bedroom.*

1

Lūcia	Grumiō	Caecilius
canis	māter	servus	fīlius

a .... est in cubiculō.
b .... est in hortō.
c .... est in viā.
d .... est in culīnā.
e .... est in tablīnō.
f .... est in ātriō.
g .... est in triclīniō.

2

in viā	in hortō	in ātriō	in tablīnō
in culīnā	in triclīniō	in cubiculō	

a Clēmēns .... labōrat.
b Caecilius .... scrībit.
c canis .... lātrat.
d Metella .... stat.
e Lūcia est ....
f coquus est ....
g Quīntus est ....

Caecilius

Caecilius lived in Italy during the first century AD in the town of Pompeii. The town was situated at the foot of Mount Vesuvius on the coast of the Bay of Naples, and may have had a population of about 10,000. Caecilius was a rich Pompeian banker. When archaeologists excavated his house they discovered his accounts in a strongbox. These documents tell us that he was also an auctioneer, tax collector, farmer, and moneylender.

He inherited some of his money, but he probably made most of it through shrewd and energetic business activities. He dealt in slaves, cloth, timber, and property. He also ran a laundry and dyeing business, grazed sheep and cattle on pastureland outside the town, and he sometimes won the contract for collecting the local taxes. He may have owned a few shops as well, and probably lent money to local shipping companies wishing to trade with countries overseas. The profit on such trading was often very large.

The front of Caecilius' house. The spaces on either side of the door were shops he probably owned.

A laundry like this was among his business interests.
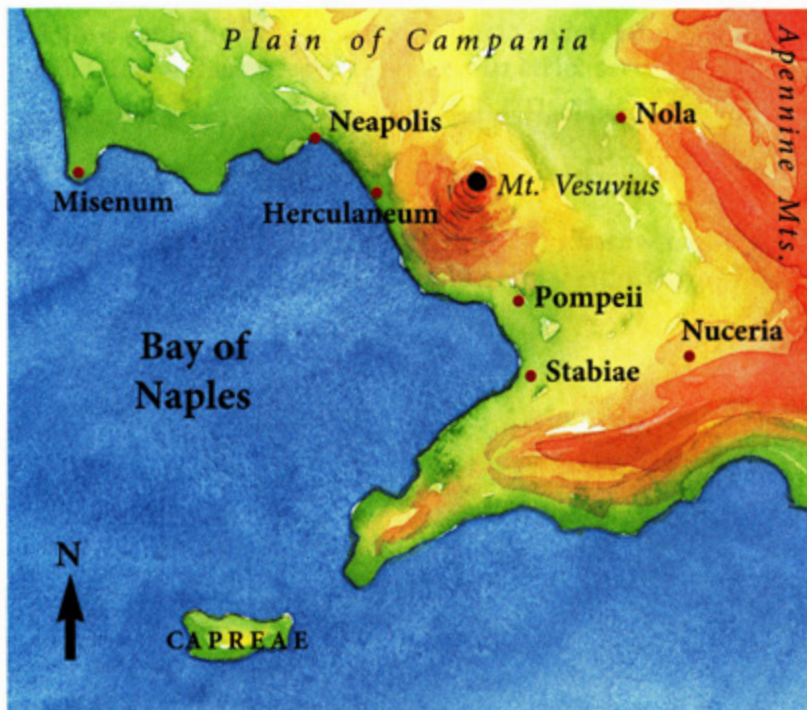
The Bay of Naples (Neapolis). The area covered by this map is about 40 miles (60 kilometers) wide.

Central and southern Italy.

Caecilius' full name was Lucius Caecilius Iucundus. Lucius was his personal name, rather like a modern first name. His second name, Caecilius, shows that he was a member of the "clan" of the Caecilii. Clans or groups of families were very important and strong feelings of loyalty existed within them. Caecilius' third name, Iucundus, is the name of his own family and close relatives. The word **iūcundus** means "pleasant" just as in English we find surnames like Merry or Jolly.

Only a Roman citizen would have three names. A slave would have just one, such as Clemens or Grumio. As a Roman citizen, Caecilius not only had the right to vote in elections, but also was fully protected by the law against unjust treatment. The slaves who lived and worked in his house and in his businesses had no rights of their own. They were his property and he could treat them well or badly as he wished. There was one important exception to this rule. The law did not allow a master to put a slave to death without showing good reason.

This head found in Caecilius' house may be a portrait of him.
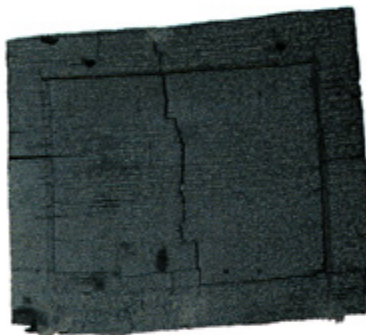
This is one of the wooden tablets found in Caecilius' house. They recorded his business dealings. The writing was on wax in the central recess and when the tablets were discovered much of the writing could still be read. The tablets were tied together in twos or threes through the holes at the top.
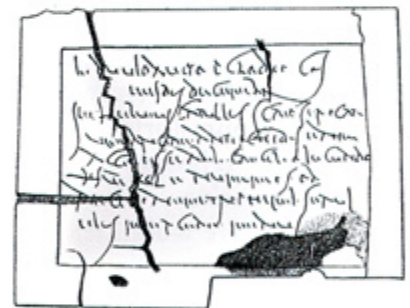
One page of the writing: it records the sale at auction of a slave for 6,252 sesterces.

Caecilius kept his tablets and money in a wood and metal strongbox like this.

Roman coins: a bronze sestertius, a silver denarius, and a gold aureus.

Metella

There is much less evidence available from the Roman world about women than there is about men, so what we know about Roman women is limited. For example, we know that Caecilius had at least two sons, Quintus and Sextus, but we do not know the name of their mother. Therefore we have imagined the character of Metella who appears in our stories as the wife of Caecilius.

A Roman girl was traditionally named after her father's clan. If Metella had been a real person, her name would indicate that she was a member of the clan of the Metelli. Similarly, a daughter of Caecilius would have been known as Caecilia. Sisters were distinguished by the addition of a second name, sometimes taken from a family member. We have imagined Caecilius' daughter to be Caecilia Lucia.

Romans did not expect women to have the same rights as men. A woman like Metella did not have full control over her own life. Her father would choose her husband, usually an older man, and she may have had little say in the decision. She would normally be married by the age of twenty, and daughters in upper-class or very rich families were sometimes given in marriage as young as twelve. At the time of our stories, the law gave most fathers control over their daughters, even after the daughter was married.

Yet Metella's role was an important one. Her main duty in her marriage would have been to produce children and help bring them up. A woman like Metella may have had ten or twelve children, only some of whom would have survived to adulthood. She was also responsible for the management of the large household, and had to supervise the work of the domestic slaves. In order to run the household successfully, she would need to be well organized, and firm but sensitive in her control of the slaves.

Women's hairstyles were often very elaborate. Many women were rich enough to own slave hairdressers.

Houses in Pompeii

The house in which a wealthy man like Caecilius lived differed in several ways from an equivalent house today. The house came right up to the sidewalk; there was no garden or grass in front of it. The windows were few, small, and placed fairly high up. They were intended to let in enough light, but to keep out the heat of the sun. Large windows would have made the rooms uncomfortably hot in summer and cold in winter.

Plan of a Pompeian house
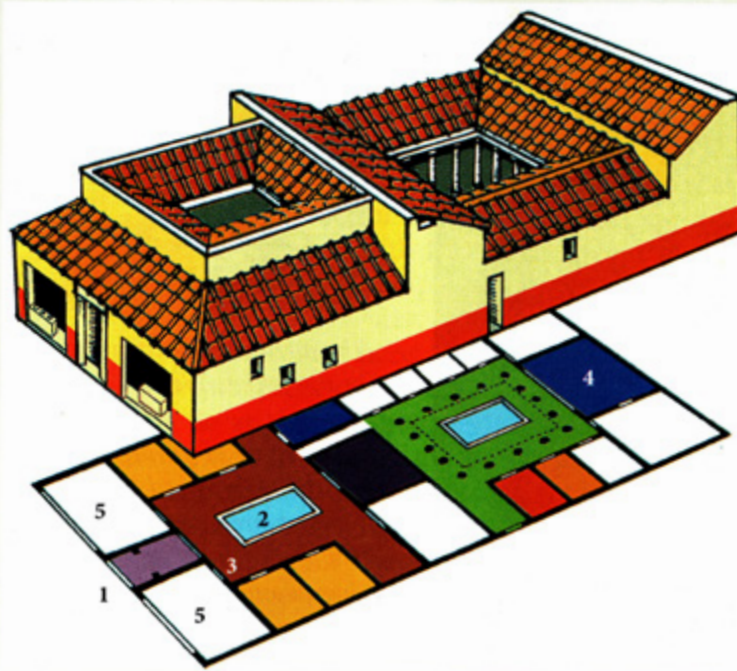
faucēs	*entrance hall*
ātrium	*main room*
cubiculum	*bedroom*
tablīnum	*study*
peristȳlium	*garden court*
triclīnium	*dining room*
culīna	*kitchen*
latrīna	*lavatory*

1	**iānua**	*front door*
2	**impluvium**	*pool for rainwater*
3	**larārium**	*shrine of the household gods*
4		*summer triclīnium*
5		*shops*

Most houses stood only one story high, although some had a second floor above. Many had shops on either side of the main door, which were rented out by the owner of the house. From the outside, with its few windows and high walls stretching all the way around, the house did not look very attractive or inviting.

The floor plan of the house shows two parts or areas of about equal size. They look like courtyards surrounded by rooms opening off the central space.

The main entrance to the house was on the side facing the street. It consisted of a tall double door. The Latin word for this door was **iānua**. On passing through the door, the visitor came into a short corridor which led straight into the main room, the **ātrium**. This impressive room, which was used for important family occasions and for receiving visitors, was large and high. The roof sloped down slightly toward a large square opening called the **compluvium**. The light streamed in through the opening high overhead. Immediately below was the **impluvium**, a shallow rectangular pool, lined with marble, which collected the rainwater.

In what ways is this house typical of houses in Caecilius' day?

A lararium.

One of the most striking things about the atrium was the sense of space. The high roof with the glimpse of the sky through the central opening and the large floor area helped to give this impression. The furniture would include a bronze or marble table, a couch, and perhaps a strongbox in which the family valuables were stored. In a corner, near the main door, was the **larārium**, a small shrine at which the family gods were worshipped. The floor of the atrium was paved with marble slabs or sometimes with mosaics. The walls were decorated with panels of brightly painted plaster. The Pompeians were especially fond of red, orange, and blue. On many of these panels there were scenes from well-known stories, especially the Greek myths.

Around the atrium were arranged the bedrooms, study, and dining room. The entrances to these rooms were usually provided not with a wooden door but with a heavy curtain.

From this first area of the house, the visitor walked through the **tablīnum** (study), or a passage, into the second part. This was the **peristȳlium**, which was made up of a colonnade of pillars surrounding the **hortus** (garden). Like the atrium, the colonnade was often elaborately decorated. Around the outside of the colonnade were the summer dining room, kitchen, lavatory, slaves' quarters, and storage rooms. Some houses also had their own set of baths.

The garden was laid out with flowers and shrubs in a careful plan. In the small fishpond in the middle, a fountain threw up a jet of water, and marble statues of gods and heroes stood here and there. In the peristylium, the members of the family enjoyed the sunshine or shade as they wished; here they relaxed on their own or entertained their guests.

The Pompeians not only lived in houses that looked very different from modern ones, but also thought very differently about them. They did not expect their houses to be private places restricted to the family and close friends. Instead, the master conducted much of his business and social life from home. He would receive and do business with most visitors in the atrium. The more important ones would be invited into the tablinum. Certain very close business friends and high-ranking individuals would receive invitations to dine or relax in the peristylium with the family.

Even if there were no outsiders present, the members of the family were never on their own. They were surrounded and often outnumbered by their slaves. They did not attach as much importance to privacy as many people do today.

Only the wealthy lived like this; most people lived in much simpler homes. Some of the poorer shopkeepers, for instance, would have had only a room or two above their shops. In large cities such as Rome, many people lived in apartment buildings several stories high, some of them in very poor conditions.

Caecilius' tablinum was decorated with vibrant colors, including a particularly expensive shade of red paint.

A painting of a marble fountain in a garden.

A peristylium, with hanging ornaments between the columns.

Vocabulary checklist 1

canis	dog
coquus	cook
est	is
fīlia	daughter
fīlius	son
hortus	garden
in	in
labōrat	works, is working
māter	mother
pater	father
sedet	sits, is sitting
servus	slave
via	street

Many wealthy Roman women were very fond of jewelry. Here are some examples of the things they might have worn.

IN VILLA
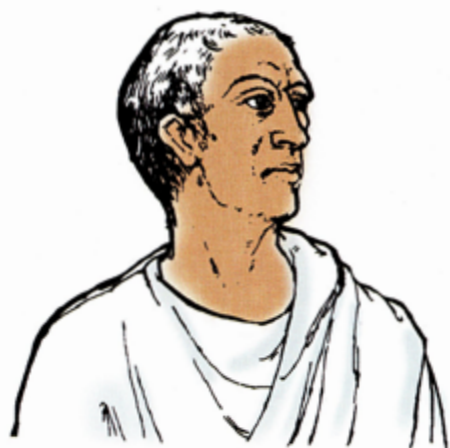
amīcus

1 Caecilius est in ātriō.

2 amīcus Caecilium salūtat.

3 Metella est in ātriō.

4 amīcus Metellam salūtat.

5 Lūcia est in ātriō.

6 amīcus Lūciam salūtat.

7 servus est in ātriō.

8 amīcus servum salūtat.
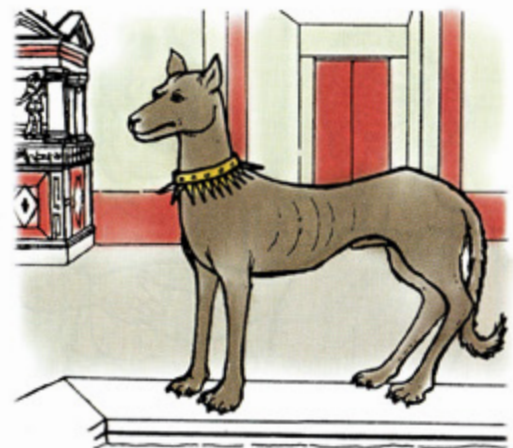
9 canis est in ātriō.

10 amīcus canem salūtat.

Metella

11 coquus est in culīnā.

12 Metella culīnam intrat.

13 Grumiō labōrat.

14 Metella Grumiōnem spectat.

15 cibus est parātus.

16 Metella cibum gustat.

17 Grumiō est anxius.

18 Metella Grumiōnem laudat.

19 amīcus est in hortō.

20 Metella amīcum vocat.

mercātor

amīcus Caecilium vīsitat. amīcus est mercātor. mercātor vīllam
intrat. Clēmēns est in ātriō. Clēmēns mercātōrem salūtat.
Caecilius est in tablīnō. Caecilius pecūniam numerat. Caecilius
est argentārius. amīcus tablīnum intrat. Caecilius surgit.

    "salvē!" Caecilius mercātōrem salūtat.   5

    "salvē!" mercātor respondet.

    Caecilius triclīnium intrat. amīcus quoque intrat. amīcus in
lectō recumbit. argentārius in lectō recumbit.

    Grumiō in culīnā cantat. Grumiō pāvōnem coquit. coquus est
laetus. Caecilius coquum audit. Caecilius nōn est laetus.   10
Caecilius cēnam exspectat. amīcus cēnam exspectat. Caecilius
Grumiōnem vituperat.

mercātor *merchant*

amīcus *friend*
vīsitat *is visiting*
vīllam *house*
salūtat *greets*
pecūniam numerat
    is counting money
argentārius *banker*
salvē! *hello!*
respondet *replies*
quoque *also*
in lectō recumbit
    reclines on a couch
cantat *is singing*
pāvōnem *peacock*
coquit *is cooking*
laetus *happy*
audit *hears, listens to*
nōn est *is not*
cēnam *dinner*
exspectat *is waiting for*
vituperat *tells off, curses*

in triclīniō

Grumiō triclīnium intrat. Grumiō pāvōnem portat. Clēmēns
triclīnium intrat. Clēmēns vīnum portat. Caecilius pāvōnem
gustat.

    "pāvō est optimus!" Caecilius clāmat.
mercātor quoque pāvōnem gustat. mercātor cēnam laudat.   5
dominus coquum laudat. Grumiō exit.

    ancilla intrat. ancilla suāviter cantat. ancilla dominum
dēlectat. ancilla mercātōrem dēlectat. mox dominus dormit.
amīcus quoque dormit.

    Grumiō triclīnium intrat et circumspectat. coquus cibum in   10
mēnsā videt. Grumiō cibum cōnsūmit et vīnum bibit! Caecilius
Grumiōnem nōn videt. coquus in triclīniō magnificē cēnat.

    coquus ancillam spectat. ancilla Grumiōnem dēlectat.
Grumiō ancillam dēlectat. Grumiō est laetissimus.

portat *is carrying*
vīnum *wine*
gustat *tastes*
optimus *very good, excellent*
laudat *praises*
dominus *master*
ancilla *slave girl*
suāviter *sweetly*
dēlectat *pleases*
mox *soon*
et *and*
videt *sees*
cibum cōnsūmit *eats the food*
magnificē *magnificently,*
    in style
cēnat *eats dinner, dines*
spectat *looks at*
laetissimus *very happy*

About the language

1 Words like **Metella**, **Caecilius**, and **mercātor** are known as **nouns**. They often indicate people or animals (e.g. **ancilla** and **canis**), places (e.g. **vīlla**, **hortus**), and things (e.g. **cēna**, **cibus**).

2 You have now met two forms of the same noun:

Metella – Metellam
Caecilius – Caecilium
mercātor – mercātōrem

3 The different forms are known as the **nominative case** and the **accusative case**.

nominative	Metella	Caecilius	mercātor
accusative	Metellam	Caecilium	mercātōrem

4 If Metella does something, such as praising Grumio, the nominative **Metella** is used:

Metella Grumiōnem laudat.
Metella praises Grumio.

5 But if somebody else does something to Metella, the accusative **Metellam** is used:

amīcus **Metellam** salūtat.
The friend greets Metella.

6 Notice again the difference in word order between Latin and English:

coquus culīnam intrat.
The cook enters the kitchen.

Clēmēns vīnum portat.
Clemens carries the wine.

Peacocks often figured on Pompeian wall paintings as well as on their dinner tables.

Practicing the language

1 Write out each Latin sentence, completing it with a suitable word or phrase from the box. Then translate the sentence. Use each phrase only once.

> For example: canis . . . . stat.
>
> canis **in viā** stat.
> *The dog is standing in the street.*

scrībit	in culīnā
servus	amīcus
sedet	in viā

a Grumiō . . . . coquit.
b . . . . in cubiculō labōrat.
c mercātor in tablīnō . . . .

d Cerberus . . . . dormit.
e Metella in ātriō . . . .
f . . . . in triclīniō cēnat.

2 Write out each Latin sentence, completing it with the correct word from the parentheses. Then translate the sentence.

> For example: amīcus Caecilium . . . . (sedet, vīsitat)
>
> amīcus Caecilium **vīsitat**.
> *A friend visits Caecilius.*

a Caecilius pecūniam . . . . (numerat, dormit)
b Clēmēns vīnum . . . . (labōrat, portat)
c ancilla hortum . . . . (intrat, gustat)
d Metella mercātōrem . . . . (salūtat, cantat)
e Quīntus cibum . . . . (vīsitat, cōnsūmit)
f Lūcia vīllam . . . . (dormit, intrat, portat)
g amīcus Grumiōnem . . . . (spectat, stat, recumbit)
h māter fīlium . . . . (bibit, dormit, vituperat)
i mercātor canem . . . . (sedet, cōnsūmit, audit)
j dominus ancillam . . . . (scrībit, laudat, numerat)

3 Translate this story:

amīcus

amīcus Grumiōnem vīsitat. amīcus est servus. servus
vīllam intrat. Clēmēns est in ātriō. servus Clēmentem
videt. Clēmēns servum salūtat. servus culīnam intrat.
servus culīnam circumspectat.
    Grumiō nōn est in culīnā. servus cibum videt. cibus   5
est parātus! servus cibum gustat. cibus est optimus.
    Grumiō culīnam intrat. Grumiō amīcum videt.
amīcus cibum cōnsūmit! coquus est īrātus.
    "pestis! furcifer!" coquus clāmat. coquus amīcum
vituperat.   10

parātus *ready*

Daily life

The day began early for Caecilius and the members of his household. He would usually get up at dawn. His slaves were up even earlier, sweeping, dusting, and polishing.

It did not take Caecilius long to dress. The first garment that he put on was his tunic, similar to a short-sleeved shirt, then his **toga**, a very large piece of woolen cloth arranged in folds, and finally his shoes, which were rather like modern sandals. A quick wash of the hands and face with cold water was enough at that time of the morning. Later he would visit a barber and be shaved, and in the afternoon he would enjoy a leisurely visit to the public baths.

His wife, Metella, also got up early. She would put on a **stola**, a full-length tunic. If she was going out, she would also wear a large rectangular shawl. With the help of a skilled slave woman, she did her hair in the latest style, put on her make-up, including powder, rouge, and mascara, and arranged her jewelry, of which she would have had a large and varied collection.

Breakfast was only a light snack, often just a cup of water and a piece of bread. The first duty of the day for Caecilius was to receive the respectful greetings of a number of poorer people and freedmen who had previously been his slaves. He would receive these visitors in the atrium and hand out small sums of money to them. If they were in any kind of trouble, he gave them as much help and protection as he could. In return, they helped Caecilius in several ways. For example, they accompanied him as a group of supporters on public occasions, and they might also be employed by him in business affairs. They were known as his **clientēs**, and he was their **patrōnus**.

After seeing these visitors, if he had no further business to conduct at home, Caecilius set out for the **forum** (marketplace), where he spent the rest of the morning trading and banking.

Lunch was eaten at about midday, and it was also a light meal. It usually consisted of some meat or fish followed by fruit. Business ended soon after lunch. Caecilius would then have a short siesta before going to the baths.

Metella would have spent her time directing and supervising the household's many slaves. For example, she might organize a meal and entertainment for her husband and his business friends, as in this Stage.

An important Roman dressed in his toga. This hot and unwieldy garment was valued because only citizens could wear it.
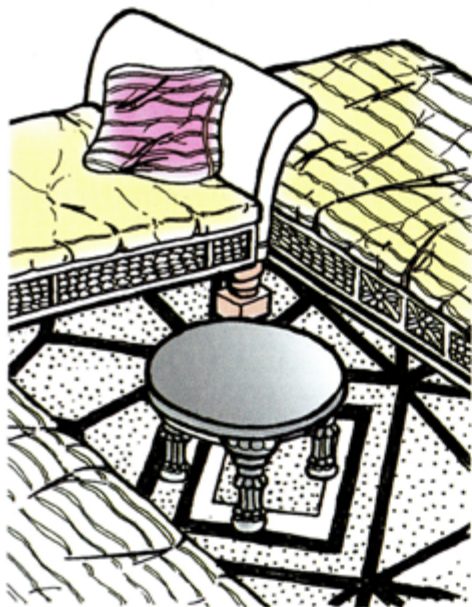

Bankers in the forum.

Some women also spent time educating their children, especially their daughters, who were less likely than sons to be educated outside the home. In the course of a day, Metella might have enjoyed spending time at home in such activities as reading; but she is just as likely to have gone out to shop or visit friends. She might also have gone to worship at a temple, or visited the baths. On days when a play or a show was put on, she could have attended the theater or amphitheater. Unlike women in Greece or the Near East, Roman women did not have to spend all or most of their time shut away in the home, seldom venturing outside.

Toward the end of the afternoon, the main meal of the day began. This was called **cēna**. During the winter, the family used the inner dining room near the atrium. In the summer, they would generally have preferred the dining room at the back of the house, which looked straight out onto the garden. Three couches were arranged around a circular table which, though small, was very elegantly carved and decorated. Each couch had places for three people. The diners reclined on the couches, leaning on their left elbow and taking food from the table with their right hand. The food was cut up by a slave before being served, and diners ate it with their fingers or a spoon. Forks were not used by the Romans. Not all Romans reclined when eating dinner, but it was usual among rich or upper-class families. Less wealthy people, slaves, children, and sometimes women would eat sitting up.

The meal was not hurried, for this was an occasion for men and women to talk and relax over good food. If guests were invited, some form of entertainment was often provided.

A Roman dinner

The meal began with a first course of light dishes to whet the appetite. Eggs, fish, and cooked and raw vegetables were often served. Then came the main course in which a variety of meat dishes with different sauces and vegetables would be offered. Beef, pork, mutton, and poultry were all popular, and in preparing them the cook would do his best to show off his skill and imagination. Finally, the dessert was brought in, consisting of fruit, nuts, cheese, and sweet dishes. Wine produced locally from the vineyards on Vesuvius was drunk during the meal.

This drawing shows how the couches were arranged in a Roman dining room. The Latin name triclinium means a room with three couches.
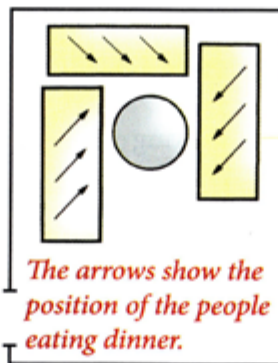
The arrows show the position of the people eating dinner.

Many loaves of bread have been found in the ruins of Pompeii.

Roman dinners were said to run "from eggs to apples"; this bowl of eggs has survived from Pompeii.
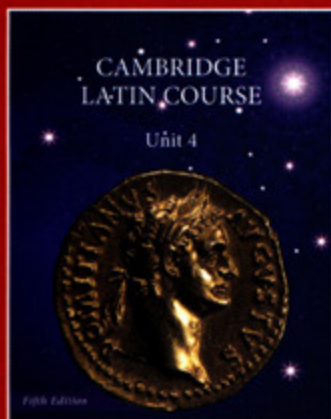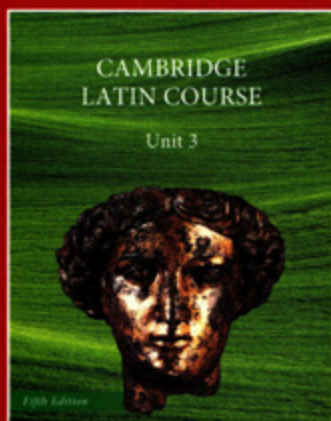

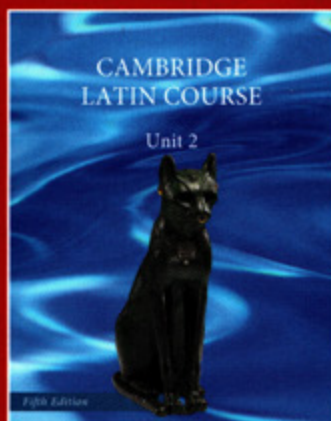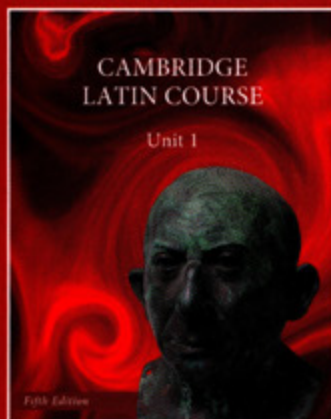Fish and other seafood were much enjoyed.

Main course ingredients – a rabbit and a chicken – hanging in a larder.

Above and below: To round off the meal: the fruit bowl and the basket of figs.

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