

THE LATIN ALPHABET

Most English-speakers do not find that Latin pronunciation presents any difficulty. Of course, it doesn't hurt that Latin is a "dead" language, one not used everyday as a standard vehicle of communication by large numbers of people; so correct pronunciation is not as important with Latin as it is with living languages.

Furthermore, living languages are constantly subject to changes in word meanings, development of dialects, variations in regional pronunciation, and so on. Latin's use for centuries as the language of religion and learning in Europe encouraged a certain artificial uniformity, so that an Englishmen could converse with an Italian in Latin and they'd have no trouble understanding each other (unless their pronunciation was badly "contaminated" by the characteristics of their native tongues).

That's not to say there was no diversity in Latin whatsoever. The language changed a great deal over the centuries; the Latin of ancient Rome differed greatly from the Church Latin of the 19th century, in pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary. Still, the Latin used in church records during recent centuries does not present enormous challenges in terms of pronunciation. Anyone with any exposure to such Romance languages as Spanish and Italian can pronounce Latin well enough to get by. And of course, those trying to decipher records written in Latin do not necessarily need to worry about pronunciation. They need only recognize the letters, which is not usually a major challenge.

<i>Printed</i>	<i>Cursive</i>	<i>Printed</i>	<i>Cursive</i>
A a	<i>A a</i>	N n	<i>N n</i>
B b	<i>B b</i>	O o	<i>O o</i>
C c	<i>C c</i>	P p	<i>P p</i>
D d	<i>D d</i>	Q q	<i>Q q</i>
E e	<i>E e</i>	R r	<i>R r</i>
F f	<i>F f</i>	S s	<i>S s</i>
G g	<i>G g</i>	T t	<i>T t</i>
H h	<i>H h</i>	U u	<i>U u</i>
I i	<i>I i</i>	V v	<i>V v</i>
J j	<i>J j</i>	W w	<i>W w</i>
K k	<i>K k</i>	X x	<i>X x</i>
L l	<i>L l</i>	Y y	<i>Y y</i>
M m	<i>M m</i>	Z z	<i>Z z</i>

This is a modified version of the Alphabet Chart given in *In Their Words: Vol. III, Latin*, <<https://langline.com/books/in-their-words-volume-iii-latin/>>. It is used here with the authors' permission.