

Latin • Chart of Sounds

(from *Diction for Singers—a concise reference for English, Italian, Latin, German, French, and Spanish pronunciation*, by J. Wall, et al.)

<p>C</p>	<p>Pronounce <i>c</i> or <i>cc</i>, when before <i>a</i>, <i>o</i>, <i>u</i> or a <i>consonant</i>, as [k], as in the English word <i>kit</i> (hard <i>c</i>; [the Latin hard <i>c</i> is less aspirate than the English <i>c</i>]) <i>cum</i> [kum] <i>pec-ca-ta</i> [pɛk: 'ka ta]</p> <p>Pronounce <i>c</i> or <i>cc</i> before <i>e</i>, <i>æ</i>, <i>œ</i>, <i>i</i>, or <i>y</i> as [tʃ], as <i>ch</i> in the English word <i>chair</i> (soft <i>c</i>). <i>lu-ce-at</i> ['lu tʃɛ at]</p> <p>Pronounce <i>c</i> as [ʃ], the sound of <i>sh</i> in the English word <i>she</i>, when <i>c</i> stands between <i>ex</i> and the vowel <i>e</i>, <i>æ</i>, <i>œ</i>, <i>i</i>, or <i>y</i>. <i>Ex-cel-sis</i> [ɛk 'ʃɛl sis]</p>
<p>d</p>	<p>Pronounce the letter <i>d</i> as the sound of <i>d</i> in <i>dog</i>. However, the Latin <i>d</i> is more dental and less aspirate than the English <i>d</i>. <i>do-mi-ne</i> ['dɔ mi nɛ] <i>De-um</i> ['dɛ um]</p>
<p>j</p>	<p>The letter <i>j</i> is pronounced as the glide <i>jot</i> [j]. The symbol [j] represents the sound of <i>y</i> in <i>you</i> and is often called a semi-consonant or semi-vowel. <i>Je-su</i> ['jɛ zu]</p>
<p>p</p>	<p>The letter <i>p</i> is pronounced as in the English word <i>put</i>. The Latin <i>p</i> is less aspirate than in English. <i>Pi-e</i> ['pi ɛ]</p>
<p>r</p>	<p>The Latin <i>r</i> is pronounced as flipped [r] or trilled [r], as in Italian (it is never the retroflex <i>r</i> of English, as in the word <i>run</i>). When <i>r</i> is between two vowels or is final, pronounce it as flipped <i>r</i>. <i>Ky-ri-e</i> ['ki ri ɛ] <i>glo-ri-a</i> ['glɔ ri a]</p> <p>When <i>r</i> is not between two vowels or final, pronounce it with either flipped or trilled <i>r</i> (choral singers use flipped <i>r</i>). <i>Ae-ter-nam</i> [ɛ 'tɛr nam]</p>
<p>t</p>	<p>Pronounce the letter <i>t</i> [t] as in the English word <i>tote</i>. However, the Latin <i>t</i> is more dental and less aspirate than in English. <i>et</i> [ɛt] <i>va-ni-tas / va-ni-ta-tum</i> ['va ni tas / va ni 'ta tum]</p> <p>Pronounce the letters <i>ti</i> as [ts] when between any vowel and any letter except <i>s</i>, <i>t</i>, or <i>x</i>. Otherwise, <i>ti</i> is pronounced [ti], as in <i>majestatis</i> [ma jɛ 'sta tis], where it is before the consonant <i>s</i>. <i>Gra-ti-a</i> ['gra tsi a] <i>o-ra-ti-o-nem</i> [ɔ ra tsi 'ɔ nɛm]</p> <p>The letters <i>th</i> form a digraph that is pronounced with the single sound [t]. The letter <i>h</i> in Latin is silent. <i>Sa-ba-oth</i> ['sa ba ɔt]</p>
<p>X</p>	<p>The letter <i>x</i> in Latin has several different pronunciations, [gs], [gz], [ks], [kʃ] and [ksk], depending upon its position in the word and the adjoining letter.</p> <p>When <i>x</i> is initial <i>ex</i> before a vowel, pronounce it as [gs]. [<i>ex</i> + {vowel}]. Initial <i>ex</i> before any vowel is [ɛgs]. The sound of [ɛgs] can be heard in English words <i>egg sandwich</i>. <i>Ex-au-di</i> [ɛg zau di]</p> <p>When <i>x</i> is in initial <i>ex</i> before <i>c</i>, pronounce it as described below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initial <i>ex</i> before <i>c</i> followed by <i>e</i>, <i>ae</i>, <i>oe</i>, <i>i</i>, or <i>y</i> is [ɛkʃ]. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The symbol [ʃ], called <i>esh</i>, is the sound of <i>sh</i> in <i>she</i>. The sound of [kʃ] can be heard in the English words <i>pink shells</i> – <i>Ex-cel-sis</i> [ɛk 'ʃɛl sis] 2. When <i>x</i> is final, pronounce it as [ks] – <i>Lux</i> [luks]