

A Quick Latin Pronunciation Guide

(ITALIANATE OR ECCELESIASTICAL LATIN)

— CONSONANTS —

Before e, ae, oe, i, or y

'c' = 'ch', like *change*

'cc' = 'tch', like *catch*

'sc' = 'sh', like *shell*

That stay the same

'j' = 'y', like *yellow*

'qu' = 'kw', like *quail*

That change based on context

'g' before a, o, or u = a hard 'g' sound, like *gate*

'g' before e or i = a soft 'g' sound, like *gesture*

'gn' = 'ny', like *canyon*

's' = 's', like *song*

's' between two vowels = a soft 'z' sound, like *lose*

'ti' before a vowel + after any letter except s, x, or t = 'tsee'

'th' = 't', like *tall*

'x' = 'ks', like *thanks*

'xc' before e, ae, oe, i, or y = 'ksh'

'h' at the beginning of a word = slightly whispered
(silent when preceded by a consonant)

'r' before a vowel = flipped

'r' before or after another consonant = rolled

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Note bene ch is hard as in "chemistry"

VOWELS

short a = 'a', like *hat*

long a = 'a', like *father*

short e = 'e', like *head*

long e = 'ay', like *pray*

short i = 'i', like *chin*

long i = 'ee', like *need*

o (always long) = 'ou', like *sought* or 'o', like *tone*

short u = 'u', like *put*

long u = 'oo', like *soon*

y (always a vowel) = 'ee', like *need*

Combined Vowels

ae and oe = 'ay', like *pray*

ai, au, ay, ei, eu, ui, and ou = two distinct vowel sounds, sung consecutively (the first vowel sound is usually a little more prominent).