

## The Latin Alphabet and Pronunciation

Like with any language, especially those that have been around as long as Latin, there are different dialects, linguistic rules, and even words and phrases that differ over time and location. In the table below, the most common letters and their corresponding names and sounds, with examples, are listed. Different sources might have slightly different information, owing to the explanation above. Latinit.as focuses on approachable Latin for a modern world, so you'll sometimes see examples of these differences; e.g., the letter **J** being listed in the chart along with the name *iota*.

Phoneme	Letter Name	Sound	Example	Example Sound
a (short)	ah	uh	pu <u>é</u> lla <i>girl</i>	pu-ELL-uh
ā (long)		ah	áger <u>e</u> <i>do</i>	AH-ge-reh
b	beh	b	básia <i>kiss</i>	BAHS-ee-uh
c	keh	k	Cícero <i>chickpea</i>	KEE-ke-roh
d	deh	d	díes <i>day</i>	DEE-ehs
e (short)	eh	eh	amáre <i>love</i>	ah-MAH-reh
ē (long)		ey	dé <i>about</i>	DAY
f	ef	f	fortúna <i>fortune</i>	for-TOO-nuh
g	geh	hard g	gérere <i>carry</i>	GEH-reh-reh
h	hah	<i>half-say it</i>	híc <i>this</i>	HEEK
í (short)	ee	ih	ín <i>in</i>	IN
ī (long)		ee	máchina <i>machine</i>	MAH-kee-nuh
j	iota	same sound as I, but acts as a consonant		
k	kah	k	kálends <i>1<sup>st</sup> of the month</i>	KAH-lends
l	el	l	léo <i>lion</i>	LEY-oh
m	em	m	méns <i>mind</i>	MEHNS
n	en	n	nóx <i>night</i>	NOHKS
o (short)	oh	oh	Pompéii <i>a city</i>	pohm-PAY-ee
ō (long)		OHH	hóstis <i>enemy</i>	HOS-tis

p	peh	p	<b>pecúnia</b> <i>money</i>	peh-COO-nee-uh
q ( <i>always goes with u</i> )	koo	kw	<b>équus</b> <i>horse</i>	EH-kwuss
r	airr	r (“tap” it)	<b>regína</b> <i>queen</i>	rey-GEE-nuh
s	es	SSS (you’re a snake)	<b>sól</b>	SOL
t	teh	t	<b>tánta</b> <i>so many</i>	TAN-tuh
u (short)	oo	uh	<b>fúndus</b> <i>farm</i>	FUHN-duhs
ū (long)		oo	<b>únus</b> <i>one</i>	OO-nuhs
v	weh	w	<b>victória</b> <i>victory</i>	wik-TOH-ree-uh
x	iks	kss	<b>réx</b> <i>king</i>	REHKS
y	ee graeca	oo	<b>Aegýptus</b> <i>Egypt</i>	eye-GOOP-tuhs
z	zeta	dz (you’re a bee)	<b>zéta</b> <i>letter Z</i>	DZEY-tuh
ae / ai		eye	<b>Gaiús</b> <i>a guy’s name</i>	GUY-uhs
au		oww	<b>aurélius</b> <i>golden</i>	oww-REY-lee-uhs
ei		ey	<b>deí</b> <i>the gods</i>	DEY
oe		oy	<b>Oédipus</b> <i>a guy’s name</i>	OY-dih-puhs
ui		wee	<b>cuí</b> <i>to whom</i>	KWEE
ch		<i>ignore h</i>	<b>Cháron</b> <i>a guy’s name</i>	KAR-own
th		<i>ignore h</i>	<b>theológia</b> <i>theology</i>	teh-oh-LOH-gee-uh
ph		<i>ignore h</i>	<b>philosóphia</b> <i>philosophy</i>	pee-loh-SOH-pee-uh
bs / bt		pss / pt (you’re beatboxing)	<b>úrbs</b> <i>city</i>	oorpss