

# Latin Language



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Latin was the spoken and written language of Rome. Many forms of literature—poetry, histories, fictional stories, and dramas—were written in Latin. Here we see a picture of an educated Roman reading in his private library. Latin could be understood throughout the Empire, and it became the language of the Roman Catholic Church. Latin greatly influenced the vocabulary of many languages. The English word “justice,” for instance, comes from the Latin word “jus”, meaning law. This same Latin root is also found in the French word “justice,” the Italian word “giustizia,” and the Spanish word, “justicia.”