

A. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Cornelia horret. Puer puellam necabit. Puella timet sed peurum vitat. Subito, puella puerum irridet. Puella est dea. Puer timet et laudat. Dea est formosa sed irata. Dea puerum fugat. Tum viri a caupona magna cum diligentia deam placant. Tamen, dea irata et viros necat. Turba clamat. Et Cornelia: "Fabula praeclara est."

Cornelia is horrified. The boy will kill the girl. The girl is scared but avoids the boy. Suddenly, the girl laughs at the boy. The girl is a goddess. The boy is scared and praises. The goddess is beautiful but angry. The goddess chases away the boy. Then, men from the inn appease the goddess with a lot of diligence. In spite of this, the goddess is angry and kills the men. The crowd goes wild. And Cornelia, "This is an excellent play."

B. READING

1. subito autem horret: Desuper gladius imminet, et apparet gladium saeta equina pendere!

Suddenly, he is horrified: he is threatened by a sword from above, and it is obvious that the sword hangs from a horse's hair!

The original storyteller of the parable of Damocles was the Roman philosopher Cicero. Cicero stood out against Julius Caesar when he declared himself a dictator. He was eventually assassinated to appease Mark Antony, his rival.

2. Modo Via Lata ibam, sed ecce: Gallus, vir firmus, me capessit et clamat:
Just now, I was going down the Via Lata, but look: A Gallic, a strong man, catches me and shouts:

The Gallic Empire covered most of Western Europe. I have read a few books set in "alternate realities" that refer to France and the area as Gall-(insert ending here). I never knew why until I started this course and saw the location of the Gallic Empire. I had never really thought about it.



3. Tum Gallus: "Fugitivus est, dominusque puerum suum repetit.
Then the Gallic, "He is a runaway slave and his master requests his boy back.

From other lessons (and just general knowledge), the Romans weren't very nice to their servants, so I didn't know why he would care, but I realized that servants were probably expensive (good help is hard to come by) so I looked it up and it is apparently an impossible question, but I saw several people saying that one sesterce is equivalent to 2 USD and the average cost of a slave was 2000 sesterces. In CAD that would be approximately 5355 CAD. Again, this is very general, but I wouldn't want to lose someone worth 5000 dollars, personally.

4. Videt mensas bonis cibus abundare, gaudet servos verbis suis parere
He sees the tables overflowing with good food, he is happy that the servants obey his words (orders)

A typical Roman feast would include pheasant, thrush (and other songbirds), raw oysters, lobster and other shellfish, venison, wild boar, and peacock. A lot of that (specifically the peacock) are definitely not on our typical dinner table.

Apparently, the food and drink was supposed to entertain the guests as well as nourish. They made these giant feasts as a spectacle as well as a dinner. It is very likely that the tables would literally be overflowing.

5. Quis enim ignorat tyrannis semper insidias imminere?
Who doesn't know that tyrants are always threatened with treachery?

It's a good question since of the 69 rulers between Augustus (d. 14 CE) and Theodosius (d. 395 CE), 43 suffered a violent death. Most were assassinated, some were killed in combat, and others committed suicide (I would guess that it was from the paranoia).

6. Officia quidem spernit, sed mox in agris laborabit!"

Indeed, he doesn't want to work, but he will soon work in the fields!"

Slaves were put to work everywhere that there was work to be done. Young boys were especially sought after in the market. If the slave was well educated (usually they were Greek), they would teach the house's children. Women were usually used as dressmakers, hairdressers, and cooks for rich women.

C. WRITING

In lesson 18, one of Marcus' friends tells a story about Damocles and how he was invited to a meal by Dionysius only to find a sword hanging above his head. Damocles' sword is now a symbol of how people in power are always in danger. It is used often in modern hip-hop. The moral of the story is that although some people might have a beautiful, rich, perfect life, it is always synonymous with terror, paranoia, and (often) death. Damocles' sword is also used as an idiom which means that someone is in a position where something very bad could happen to them at any given moment.

10 POSTS IN THE FORUMS (this unit)

53 POSTS IN TOTAL

D. INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

Demonstrare

So, one could probably guess that this meant "to show/ prove", but there is another word, "monstrare", which also means "to show". In the little side column, the modern word for demonstrare is "demonstration" and the modern word for monstrare is "demonstrate". I find it interesting that they had two words that sounded similar and essentially meant the same thing. Why not just keep it to one? The only answer that makes sense to me is the alternate translation of demonstrare which is "to prove".

Placere

I saw this word, and it was familiar, but I couldn't place (haha) it until I went back in the other vocabulary charts and saw almost the same word, with a slightly different meaning. Placere in the more recent chart is "to please/ to be agreeable to" whereas "placare" is "to calm/ appease". They are such similar words with such similar meanings, it is shocking to me that there are two of them.

Circus

I understand the translation "circus" (for obvious reasons), but the other translation, "circle" was confusing to me. So, I accessed the handy thing known as Google, and,

well, it looks like my class *trying* to sit in a circle.



I don't see how this is considered a circle, or why circus means both this oval thing and circle. Sure, the words look similar, but the circus is so NOT a circle, it just doesn't make sense.

Ire

As you know, the root of the future and imperfect tenses in French for “aller” is “ir-”, so I find this really interesting. The word “ire” didn't inspire “aller” but they still incorporated it into the language by making it a variation of the word and I really like that. It really shows exactly how influential Latin was on other languages.

Cena

This means meal, but what I found interesting is how many modern languages have a word based on this word. There is the English word “cena”, the Italian word “cenare”, and the French word “la Cène”. “La Cène” refers to the painting “The Last Supper” painted by Leonardo Da Vinci. I find it interesting how many Latin words become the name of paintings in French (“La Joconde”= The Mona Lisa, “La Cène”= The Last Supper).

Filius

The word means “son” and the English adaptation is “filial” which means “befitting or of a son/daughter”. I like how we say “son” in English and not “filial” because it's like when they were making English they associated “filius” with a meaning that included “son” but not the actual word. Again, it reminds me just how much we borrow from Latin.