

## Glossary: Latin metres

<b>alcaic</b>	a metre adopted by Horace in Latin, named after the Greek poet Alcaeus.
<b>caesura</b>	a regular point in a line with a break between two words.
<b>classical</b>	'Classical' Latin is broadly the output of writers from around 70BC to AD130. 'Classical' Greek was earlier: the fifth and fourth centuries BC.
<b>consonant</b>	a letter sounded by a closure or restriction of the airway.
<b>dactyl</b>	a metrical foot with one long and two short syllables.
<b>diphthong</b>	two vowels which run together to form one long syllable.
<b>elegiac couplets</b>	pairs of alternating lines, hexameter followed by a pentameter; typically, expressing or describing feelings of love or anguish or similar emotion.
<b>elision</b>	a final syllable ending with a vowel or <b>-m</b> fades before a word starting with a vowel or <b>h-</b> , and the two syllables count as a single syllable in a line of verse.
<b>enjambment</b>	where the sense does not reach a pause at the end of a line but spills over to the next.
<b>epic</b>	a long narrative poem, mythical subject matter, larger-than-life characters.
<b>epigram</b>	a short poem, typically humorous, sometimes sharp and satirical.
<b>foot</b>	a unit of a metrical line.
<b>Hellenistic</b>	Greek-inspired culture around the eastern Mediterranean, post-Alexander.
<b>hendacasyllable</b>	a metrical line of eleven syllables.
<b>hexameter</b>	a metrical line of six feet, used for all epic narrative poems.
<b>hiatus</b>	where there would normally be elision but the poet wants the sound of both syllables retained, often creating a jerky sound for a particular effect.
<b>ictus</b>	the first long syllable of a foot.
<b>liquid</b>	<b>l</b> and <b>r</b> are liquid consonants; when either of these follow a mute consonant ( <b>p, b, c, g, t, d</b> ) or <b>f</b> , the pair combine closely enough to make the sound of a single consonant, and poets sometimes treat the two consonants as one, sometimes as two (e.g. <b>a-grī</b> or <b>ag-rī</b> ).
<b>lyric poetry</b>	typically, short poems with personal, intimate themes.
<b>macron</b>	a line marked above a vowel to show it is long as opposed to short.
<b>make position</b>	said of consonants following a short vowel which, by their presence, make the syllable long: a syllable made long by a long vowel or diphthong is called 'long by nature', and one made long by the following consonants is called 'long by position'.
<b>metre</b>	a unit of measurement with a particular sense in poetry: the arrangement of syllabic quantities (Latin) or word accent (English), including any variables, over a line or group of lines.
<b>pentameter</b>	a metre of five feet: the second line of an elegiac couplet, following a hexameter.
<b>phrasing</b>	grouping the words according to the meaning.
<b>pitch</b>	the tonal quality of a word or syllable, typically raised or lowered.
<b>prodelision</b>	an infrequent form of elision where the succeeding syllable gives way to the preceding one instead of the more usual dominance of the succeeding syllable: <b>est</b> is typically subject to prodelision, when it follows a word ending with a vowel or <b>-m</b> .
<b>quantity</b>	the duration of a sound: syllables and vowels each have quantity, i.e. are either long or short.
<b>scan</b>	to map the metre of a line or stanza.
<b>spondee</b>	a metrical foot with two long syllables.
<b>stanza</b>	a set group of lines of a poem whose metrical pattern may be repeated to create a succession of stanzas; also known as a verse.
<b>stress</b>	the additional force or weight or volume that falls on a particular syllable (or syllables) of a word.
<b>syllable</b>	a word may be divided into its different syllables: 'do-mes-tic'.
<b>vowel</b>	a letter ( <b>a, e, i, o, u, y</b> ) sounded through an open airway, which forms a syllable by itself or in conjunction with one or more consonants and/or another vowel in a diphthong. A vowel may be long or short.
<b>word accent</b>	Latin and English have a stress-based word accent, classical Greek one of pitch.