

Consonants (if a consonant is not listed, use the American English equivalent)

Four Versions of "c"

c (before <i>a, o, u</i>)	"k" sound as in "kite" (ex: "cantata")
c (before <i>e, i, y, ae, and oe</i>)	"ch" sound as in "church" (ex: "coeli," "pacem")
c (after <i>x</i>)	"sh" sound as in "ship" (ex: "excelsis")
cc	"t ch" sound as in "eat cheese " (ex: "ecce")
ch (before vowels)	"k" sound as in "kite" (ex: "cantata")

Three Versions of "g"

g (before <i>a, o, u</i>)	"g" sound as in "go" (ex: "ego")
g (before <i>e, i, y, ae, and oe</i>)	"dg" sounds as in "judge" (ex: "Regina")
gn	"ny" sound as in "canyon" ("Agnus")

Two Versions of "h"

h	usually silent
h	(rare) "k" sound as in "kite" (ex: "mihi," "nihil")
j	"y" sound as in "yellow" (ex: "Jesu," "judex")
k	"k" sound as in "kite" (ex: "Kyrie") This is actually a Greek word
qu	"qu" sound as in "quick" (ex: "qui")
r	flipped, when between two vowels or at end of a word (ex: "miserere," "per")
r	rolled, when two <i>r</i> 's are together, or when <i>r</i> precedes or follows a consonant (ex: "terra, morte, tremenda")
s	"s" sound as in "sea" (ex: "santcus")
sc (before <i>e, i, u, and ae</i>)	"sh" sound as in "ship" (ex: "suscipe")
sc (all other cases)	"sk" sound as in "skip" (ex: "scorpio")
th	"T" sound as in "Thomas" (ex: "sabaoth")
ti (before a vowel and after any letter except <i>s, t</i> or <i>x</i>)	"ts" sound as in "bits" (ex: "gratia")
ti (passive or dependent verbs)	"t" sound as in "toy" (ex: "patier")
ti (beginning of a word)	"t" sound as in "toy" (ex: "timor")
x (before vowels, <i>h</i> and <i>s</i>)	"gs" sound as in "eggs" (ex: "exalto")

x (all other cases)	“cks” sound as in “tacks” (ex: “pax”)
xc (before a, o, u)	“ksk” sound as in “exconvict” (ex: “excussorum”)
xc (before e, i, y, ae and oe)	“ks” sound as in “thick shell” (ex: “excelsis”)
y	“ee” sound as in “bee” (ex: “Kyrie”)
z	“ds” sound as in “bids” (ex: “Lazarur”)

VOCAL EXERCISES

1. Sing the next exercise the first time with the Italian Latin vowels. The second time add the “m” before the vowel. Also add a “k.” Then sing the vowels in reverse. Note: Make sure you have the British “o” vowel sound like “fought” with a more lowered jaw. This is not the American “oh” vowel sound.

Italian Latin Vowel Exercise

i mi u mu
 e me o mo
 a ma a ma
 o mo e me
 u mu i mi

2. When a word ends with a vowel and the next word begins with a vowel, make a small separation between to articulate the two words. Do not elide (connect) them.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
 Kee - ree - eh eh - leh - sohn.

3. Excelsis is pronounced *eh—kshell-sees*. Think of the “k” as a grace note just before you say *shell*. The first vowel should not be “ex” (like in *Rex*) but instead “eh” like in “*bed*.”

ex - cel - sis
 eh - kshell - sees