

# A List of Challenging Latin Derivatives and Their Roots

## A

**acer:** eager, vinegar  
**acus:** eglantine  
**aemulus:** emulate  
**aes:** era  
**aestimo:** aim, esteem  
**aestus:** estuary  
**aeuum:** age, eternity  
**ager:** pilgrim  
**ago:** agile, ambiguous, assay, essay, squat  
**aio:** adage  
**albus:** auburn, bedaub, daub  
**aliquis:** hidalgo  
**alter:** altruistic, adultery  
**altus:** exalt, haughty, oboe  
**amarus:** maraschino  
**ante:** advance, ancient, avaunt, vanguard  
**aperio:** overt, pert  
**aptus:** attitude, couple, lariat  
**aqua:** ewer, sewer  
**aquila:** eagle  
**arcus:** arcade  
**ars:** inert  
**as:** ace  
**asinus:** easel  
**audio:** obey  
**aurum:** oriole

## B

**battuo:** abate, battle, battery  
**bellum:** duel, rebel, revel  
**bibo:** beverage  
**bis:** balance, combine  
**bonus:** beau, bonbon, bounty  
**bos:** beef, bugle  
**bullae:** bill, billet, boil, budge, bullet  
**buteo:** buzzard

## C

**caballus:** cavalier, cavalry, chivalry  
**cado:** chance, cheat  
**caedo:** cement, chisel

**caleo:** caldron, calorie, chafe, chowder, nonchalant, scald, chauffeur  
**calo:** conciliate, calendar, council, nomenclature  
**calvor:** calumny, challenge  
**calx(heel):** caulk/calk, cockatrice, inculcate, recalcitrant  
**calx(small stone):** calcium, calculate, chalk  
**campus:** champaign, champion  
**canis:** canary, canine, kennel  
**cano:** accent, charm, enchant, incentive  
**caper:** cab, taxicab  
**capio:** cable, caitiff, conceit, ketch, municipal, prince, recover  
**caput:** achieve, cabbage, capitol, cattle, chapter, chef, handkerchief, precipice  
**caro:** carnation, carnival, carrion  
**carpo:** carpet, scarce  
**carrus:** career, cargo, charge  
**casa:** casino  
**castra:** castle, chateau  
**castus:** castigate, chaste, incest  
**cauda:** caudal, coward, cue  
**causa:** accusative, because, excuse, kickshaw  
**cavea:** cage, decoy, jail  
**cedo:** cease, necessary  
**cerno:** decree, secret  
**cieo:** citation, solicit  
**cilium:** supercilious  
**cingo:** cinch, succinct  
**circus:** search  
**civis:** citadel  
**clam:** clandestine  
**clamo:** claim  
**claudio:** cloister, seclude, sluice  
**cohors:** court, curtsy, courteous  
**collum:** accolade, collar  
**colo:** cult  
**contra:** counter, country  
**coquo:** apricot, biscuit, cuisine, terra-cotta  
**cor:** cordial, core, courage, record  
**corpus:** corps, corsage, corset  
**costa:** coast, cutlet, accost  
**crassus:** grease  
**cratis:** grate, grid, grill  
**credo:** grant, miscreant  
**creSCO:** accrue, crew, increase, recruit  
**cubo:** concubine, covey, succumb  
**culina:** kiln  
**culus:** recoil  
**cuneus:** coin, cuneiform

**cupio:** covet

**cura:** assure, ensure, insure, proctor, proxy, scour

## D

**debeo:** devoir, endeavor

**decem:** dicker, dozen

**dens;** dandelion

**deus:** adieu

**dico(dicere):** ditty

**dies:** adjourn, dial, diary, dismal, journal, sojourn

**dignus:** dainty, deign, disdain

**do:** betray, dice, dowry, pardon, render, rendezvous, rent, traitor, treason, vendor

**domus:** bedlam, damsel, danger, dungeon, granny, madam, Madonna

**duo:** dozen, dual, duet

## E

**ebur:** ivory

**emo:** example, exempt, impromptu, premium, prompt, ransom, redeem, sample, vintage

**eo:** ambition, circuit, county, exit, issue, obituary, perish, praetorian, sudden, trance, viscount

**extra:** estrange, external, strange

**exsul:** exile

## F

**faber:** forge

**facio:** affair, chauffeur, defeat, façade, facet, feat

**fallo:** fail, fault

**fanum:** fanatic, profane

**fido:** affidavit, federal, fiancé

**filius:** affiliation, hidalgo

**filum:** profile

**tingo:** effigy, faint, feign, figure

**finis:** finesse, paraffin

**firmus:** farm

**fleo:** feeble, foible

**flo:** soufflé

**flos:** flour

**focus:** curfew, foyer, fuel

**folium:** foliage, portfolio

**for:** fable, fairy, fate, infant

**foris:** foreign, forest, forfeit  
**formica:** chloroform, formaldehyde  
**foro:** perforate  
**forum:** forensic  
**frango:** frail, fritter, osprey  
**frater:** friar  
**frenum:** refrain  
**frigo:** fry  
**frio:** friable  
**fundo:** confuse, funnel, futile, foundry  
**fur:** ferret, furtive

## G

**galbinus:** jaundice  
**gelu:** congeal, jelly  
**genus:** benign, engine, gent, germ, jaunty  
**gero:** jest, register  
**granum:** garnet, gravy, pomegranate  
**grus:** pedigree

## H

**habeo:** able, malady, provender  
**herba:** arbor  
**hirpex:** rehearsal  
**Hispania:** spaniel  
**hospes:** host, hotel, ostler

## I

**ilia:** jade  
**instauro:** store  
**insula:** isolation  
**inter:** enter, entrée  
**intus:** denizen

## J

**jaceo:** gist, joist  
**jacio:** jess, jet, jetty, jut  
**jejunus:** dine, dinner

**jocus:** jeopardy, jewel, juggle  
**jungo:** jostle, joust, juxtaposition  
**juniperus:** gin(liquor)  
**jus(right):** justice  
**jus(broth):** juice  
**juvo:** aid, coadjutor, jocund

## L

**labor(verb):** avalanche, collapse  
**lac:** lettuce  
**lacertus:** alligator, lizard  
**lacus:** lagoon  
**lamina:** omelet  
**lancea:** launch  
**lassus:** alas  
**latus(adj.):** dilate, latitude  
**latus(noun):** lateral  
**latus(participle):** elate, prelacy  
**laus:** allow  
**lavo:** deluge, launder, lava, lotion  
**laxus:** leash, release, relish  
**lego:** coil, cull, legion, lesson  
**levis:** carnival, leaven, levy  
**lex:** loyalty  
**ligo:** alloy, ally, liaison, rally, rely  
**locus:** couch, lieu, lieutenant  
**longus:** lunge, purloin

## M

**macer:** emaciate, meager  
**macula:** immaculate  
**magis:** maestro, maxim, mayor  
**mando:** commodore  
**maneo:** manor, mansion, menial  
**manus:** maintain, manacle, manure  
**mappa:** apron, napkin  
**mare:** cormorant, marinate, rosemary  
**maturus:** demure  
**mel:** molasses  
**memini:** comment  
**mensis:** semester  
**merx:** market, merchant

**metus:** meticulous  
**minae:** amenable, demeanor, promenade, promontory  
**minuo:** menu, mince, minute  
**misceo:** meddle, medley, melee, promiscuous  
**mitto:** demise, mess, muss  
**modus:** mold  
**molo:** mill, molar  
**moneo:** monitor, monster, monument, muster  
**mordeo:** morsel  
**mos:** morose  
**moveo:** mob, moment, motif, mutiny  
**mulgeo:** emulsion  
**murus:** immure  
**mus:** muscle, mussel  
**musca:** mosquito, musketry  
**muto:** molt

## N

**nascor:** naïve, puny  
**necto:** annex, connect  
**nego:** denial, renegade  
**nepos:** nephew, niece  
**niger:** darnel  
**niteo:** neat, net  
**noceo:** innocent, nuisance  
**nomen:** ignominy, nominee, noun, renown  
**non:** nonchalant, umpire  
**nosco:** acquaint, connoisseur, notion  
**novem:** noon  
**nux:** nuclear

## O

**obliviscor:** oblivion  
**octo:** octave  
**oculus:** antler, eyelet, inveigle  
**odi:** annoy, ennui  
**operio:** cover, curfew, handkerchief  
**ops:** copy, office  
**opus:** inure, maneuver, manure  
**orbis:** exorbitant  
**orior:** aborigines, origin  
**oro:** adore, oracle, orison

**os(ossis):** osprey

## P

**paene:** peninsula

**palleo:** appall, pale

**palus:** pole, travel

**pando:** compass, expansive, pace, pass, passage, password, spawn

**pango:** dispatch, impinge, propaganda

**panis:** appanage, pannier, pantry

**par:** pair, peer, umpire

**parco:** parsimonious

**pareo:** appear, apparition

**pario:** repertoire

**paro:** dissever, emperor, parapet, several

**pars:** jeopardy, parcel, party

**parvus:** paraffin

**pax:** appease, pay

**pectus:** parapet

**pendeo:** append, appendage, pendant, pendulum, penthouse, propensity

**pendo:** avoidupois, expend, pansy, pension, pensive, poise, pound, stipend

**penes:** penetrate

**pes:** impeach, pawn, pedigree, pioneer, trivet, vamp

**pila:** pellet, pill, platoon

**pilus:** peel, pillage, plush

**pinna:** pinnacle

**piscis:** porpoise

**placeo:** complaisant, placid, plea

**plango:** complaint, plague, plaintiff

**planus:** explain, piano, plan

**pecto:** apply, display, employ, pleat, ply, supple

**pomum:** pummel

**pono:** depot, expound, provost

**populus:** pueblo

**porcus:** porcelain, porcupine, porpoise

**porta:** porch, portico

**porto:** porter, sport

**post:** posthumous, puny

**praeda:** prey

**prehendo:** apprentice, apprise, enterprise, entrepreneur, impresario, pry, prison, surprise

**premo:** print, reprimand, sprain

**pretium:** appraise, appreciate, price, prize

**prior:** premier, prince

**pulvis:** powder

**pungo:** poignant, point, puncture

**puppis:** poop  
**puteus:** pit  
**puto:** count

## Q

**quaero:** conquer  
**quails:** kickshaw  
**quatio:** cascara, cask, discuss, rescue, squash(verb)  
**quattor:** quarantine, quarry, quire, squad  
**quies:** acquit, coy, quit  
**quinque:** quintessence

## R

**rabio:** rage  
**racemus:** raisin  
**rado:** erase, raze, razor  
**rapio:** ravage, surreptitious, usurp  
**ravis:** raucous  
**rego:** address, adroit, alert, dress, rail, source, surge  
**reor:** reason  
**rex:** realm, viceroy  
**rivus:** derivative, rival  
**robur:** corroborate  
**rodo:** erosion, rodent  
**rota:** around, control, enroll, roll, roulette, round, rowel  
**rumpo:** abrupt, route, routine

## S

**sacer:** sexton  
**saepes:** transept  
**sal:** salad, salary, sauce, sausage  
**salio:** assail, exult, result, sally  
**scamnum:** shambles  
**scando:** scale  
**scio:** nice  
**scribo:** shrive  
**scutum:** squire  
**sedeo:** assess, assiduous, session, siege, size, surcease  
**senex:** surly, seigneur  
**sentio:** scent



**sequor:** ensue, intrinsic, lawsuit, obsequious, sect, set, sue  
**sero**(join together): assert, desert, series  
**sero**(sow): disseminate, season  
**servus:** dessert, sergeant  
**sine:** sans  
**sino:** site  
**sinus:** cosine  
**sol:** parasol  
**solidus:** soldier  
**solus:** sullen  
**soror:** cousin  
**specio:** spice, spite  
**spina:** porcupine  
**sterno:** stray, prostrate, street  
**sto:** arrest, cost, rest, stage, stay  
**stringo:** distress, prestige, strain, stress  
**struo:** construe, destroy  
**suavis:** assuage, suave  
**sum:** entity, possible, puissance  
**super:** soprano, sovereign  
**taceo:** reticent  
**tango:** attain, contagious, entire, integrate, taste  
**tempto:** tentacle  
**tempus:** tense  
**tendo:** portent, standard, tent  
**teneo:** abstain, rein, tennis, tenor  
**tergeo:** terse  
**tero:** contrite  
**texo:** subtle, tiller, tissue, toilet  
**tingo:** stain, tinge, tint  
**tono:** astonish, astound, stun, tornado  
**torqueo:** extort, torch, tormentor, torture  
**torreo:** toast, torrid  
**trabs:** architrave  
**traho:** entreat, portray, trace, treaty  
**tres:** travail, travel, treble  
**tuber:** truffle  
**tundo:** obtuse, toil  
**turba:** trouble

## U

**ultra:** outrage  
**uncia:** inch, ounce  
**unus:** onion, unit

**uro:** combustion

**utor:** peruse, usurp, utensil

## V

**vaco:** void

**vagina:** vanilla

**vannus:** fan

**veredus:** palfrey

**vestis:** travesty, vestry

**via:** convey, envoy, voyage

**vox:** avow, voice, vouch, vowel