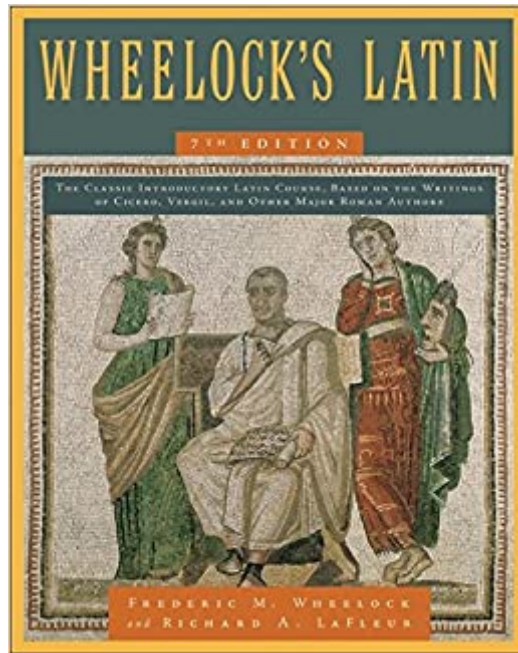




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Wheelock's Latin, 7th Edition (The Wheelock's Latin Series)



Synopsis

For nearly sixty years, Wheelock's Latin has remained the optimus liber of beginning Latin textbooks. When Professor Frederic M. Wheelock's Latin first appeared in 1956, the reviews extolled its thoroughness, organization, and conciseness; one reviewer predicted that the book "might well become the standard text" for introducing students to elementary Latin. Now, nearly six decades later, that prediction has certainly proved accurate. This new edition of Wheelock's Latin has all of the features, many of them improved and expanded, that have made it the bestselling single-volume beginning Latin textbook: 40 chapters with grammatical explanations and readings drawn from the works of Rome's major prose and verse writers; Self-tutorial exercises, each with an answer key, for independent study; An extensive English–Latin/Latin–English vocabulary section; A rich selection of original Latin readings—unlike other Latin textbooks, which contain primarily made-up texts; Etymological aids, maps, and dozens of images illustrating aspects of the classical culture and mythology presented in the chapter readings. Also included are expanded notes on the literary passages, comments on vocabulary, and translation tips; new comprehension and discussion questions; and new authentic classical Latin readings, including Roman graffiti, in every chapter.

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Customer Reviews

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Frederic M. Wheelock (1902-1987) received the A.B., A.M., and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University. His long and distinguished teaching career included appointments at Haverford College, Harvard University, the College of the City of New York, Brooklyn College, Cazenovia Junior College (where he served as Dean), the Darrow School for Boys (New Lebanon, NY), the University of Toledo (from which he retired as full Professor in 1968), and a visiting professorship at Florida Presbyterian (now Eckert) College. He published a number of articles and reviews in the fields of textual criticism, palaeography, and the study of Latin; in addition to Wheelock's Latin (previously titled Latin: An Introductory Course Based on Ancient Authors), his books include Latin Literature: A Book of Readings and Quintilian as Educator (trans. H. E. Butler; introd. and notes by Prof. Wheelock). Professor Wheelock was a member of the American Classical League, the American Philological Association, and the Classical Association of the Atlantic States. Richard A. LaFleur is Franklin Professor of Classics—Emeritus—and former Head of Classics at the University of Georgia; he has served as Editor of the Classical Outlook and President of the American Classical League, and is a recipient of the American Philological Association's national award for excellence in the teaching of Classics. Among his numerous books are Scribblers, Sculptors, and Scribes and the revised editions of Wheelock's Latin, Workbook for Wheelock's Latin, and Wheelock's Latin Reader.

Wheelock is an excellent textbook in many ways, and this new edition makes it more attractive than ever (load of new photos, comprehension questions to accompany the readings, etc.) As before, the presentation of the grammar is clear and well-organized, and there are lots of great ancillaries to help you get through the book. By far its biggest draw-back, however, has not been ameliorated: the lack of reading passages of any significant length. This means that the course, while teaching the grammar and syntax quite nicely, does not develop proficiency in reading Latin as much as it should. Students who finish Wheelock often have great difficulty making the transition to reading actual Latin texts (if the assignments are of any significant length). To avoid this, a student learning from Wheelock (or really any traditional "grammar-translation" method) should supplement his or her studies with extended reading passages as soon as possible (certainly from the latter half of Wheelock to the end). It isn't necessarily easy to find a decent amount of reading material suited to this purpose, but it seems to be getting easier: there has been something of an explosion in this genre in recent years. One choice for more significant supplementary readings might be *War with Hannibal: Authentic Latin Prose for the Beginning Student*. It presents a considerable amount of a real Latin (enough to get you acquainted with reading Latin prose, yet not so much that you can't finish the book), and includes helpful notes geared toward the beginning student. Of course there's also the beautiful new reader by Prof. LaFleur, *Scribblers, Sculptors, and Scribes: A Companion to Wheelock's Latin and Other Introductory Textbooks*. Another possibility -- if you are brave -- is Augustus' *Res Gestae*. *Res Gestae Divi Augusti* (Greek Commentaries Series) is quite inexpensive (though the notes could be a bit more thorough for the beginning student). You could also try reading some of the graded passages in *Reading Latin: Text* (say starting with the adapted Cicero about half way through the book). I myself am not crazy about *38 Latin Stories Designed to Accompany Frederic M. Wheelock's Latin (Latin Edition)* (the Latin -- even from the latter half of the book -- feels too Anglicized). Many people like it though, and the main point is to read! In any case, this lovely new edition of Wheelock notwithstanding, you really *must* supplement the textbook with as much reading as possible. It really is the only way to become a fluent reader (and feel prepared to some degree when you finish your textbook and begin to read real Latin texts). Exercises and discrete sentences are fine, but they are no substitute for reading, reading, reading!

Contrary to the previous review written by Samantha Toffolo, I recommend the kindle edition. I found the diagrams, albeit small, completely legible. You can always download the sample and see for yourself. Besides, diagrams only take up 5% of the book, while the maps and paintings are

superfluous anyways, they don't help you learn Latin. Why I highly recommend the kindle edition is that you can set bookmarks. At the end of each chapter you are told to go to the back of the book to do exercises. In the paperback, this is like going from pg50 to pg600 for exercises then pg650 for the answers. Have you ever had to flip to the end of a colossal book for footnotes or glossary? It's a pain. Not only can I set bookmarks on kindle and go to them with a few clicks, I can preview bookmark pages, i.e., they're superimposed on the page you have open. So if I'm quizzing on pg600, I don't even have to go to pg650, it's overlayed on top. I can't stress how convenient this is and how convenient bookmarks in general are for such a large book, not to mention the search feature and the ability to use a latin-english lexicon. Another reviewer didn't like all the additions, particularly the graffiti section and the added exercises. I also disagree because Lefleur knows this book will be used not only by students but by those self-teaching, such as myself. Anything that will make Latin more fun and accessible is great in my opinion. The book is big though, but as another reviewer states, there isn't enough reading material and I agree. However, if you added reading material this book would be even larger, which is unrealistic. Unless of course, you have a kindle.

I have taught from Wheelock for several years and have in fact taught myself Latin from it. It is clear and I never found myself lost as a self-learner. The Kindle edition does have some formatting issues, though these are not insurmountable. I wish the publisher would update with fixes.

I first used Wheelock's Latin in a previous incarnation about 25 years ago. I like the changes and additions in the 7th edition, especially being able to use it on my kindle. Maybe there is a way (which I have not yet discovered!) on my kindle to find a word in the dictionary in back without having to start at "A" or "Z" every time?!? I love the grammar 'review' and explanation of the various tenses. Thank you, Mr. LaFleur, for updating some of the material without upsetting Mr. Wheelock's general pedagogical presentation. I wish other language texts could cover so much material so efficiently.

Our children's school has changed their Latin program as well as their teacher. This is what the new teacher wanted to use for 9th/10th grade Latin.

If you are looking for a rigorous Latin course, this seems to be the gold standard. Of course, it can be done in 2 or 3 or even 4 years depending on the student & the time they have to devote to language learning. We needed a new copy since my dd wore out the one she used in class. She wanted to still have a good copy for reference as she did (higher) Latin translation.

The book is instructive and helpful even without a teacher. I have the ebook which would benefit by better hyperlinking between exercises and answer keys.

The classic text for learning Latin. I had studied Latin in college. My sister pressganged me into service to prevent my nephew from failing Latin. He would have been kicked off his school's football team if he failed a subject (Imagine what the college football rankings would be if the NCAA instituted that rule) I picked up the Wheelock textbook and work book and was up to speed in no time. I highly recommend this book to anyone who either wants to brush up on or learn Latin from scratch. *Ipsa scientia potesta est.*

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