

High-School Latin Transition Checklist

What to know and do as you move from middle-school Latin toward high-school placement.

Before You Move Up

- [] Understand the two-year journey: 6th grade builds the foundation, 7th grade adds reading and cultural depth, 8th grade prepares you for placement.
- [] Know the exams you'll encounter: the Exploratory Latin Exam (ELE) in 6th grade, then the National Latin Exam (NLE) from 7th grade on.
- [] Attend the PAJCL State Convention at Penn State (8th grade, Memorial Day weekend) if you're able — academics, athletics, arts, and talent shows against Latin students statewide.
- [] Ask your current teacher about placement recommendations for high-school Latin levels well before scheduling opens.

Your First Week in a New Classroom

- [] Expect class to run mostly in Latin from day one, pitched for you — your only job is to follow along.
- [] Listen for the message before individual words; use gestures, pictures, and classmates as context.
- [] Signal when the message stops being clear — that's expected, not a failure.
- [] Expect mistakes. They are evidence that learning is happening, not a sign you don't belong.

The First Month

- [] Notice when you stop translating word-by-word and start reading Latin in its own order.
- [] Let familiar stories come back around — re-reading is part of how fluency builds.

By Midyear

- [] Check whether you're following new stories on the first pass, without being told to look for grammar.
- [] Notice if reading Latin has started to feel normal — even fun.

If It Feels Difficult

Everyone else seems to understand: watch the gesture or image attached to the message; ask for one sentence to be made clearer.

You want to translate every word: pause and ask what's happening overall; use names, actions, and sequence as anchors.

You're worried about speaking: respond with a gesture, choice, or single word first; let understanding grow before polished output.

See also: [How to Study Latin \(student guide\)](#) · [A Family Guide to Learning Latin](#)

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