10 Reasons Why You Should Study Latin:

1) **50% of English is derived from Latin.** This can help you understand some of our crazy vocabulary! For example: if you didn’t know what the word *cornucopia* meant, you could use your Latin knowledge to figure out its meaning. Within *cornucopia*, there is the Latin root, *cornu*, which means “horn.” So with your awesome Latin knowledge, you can figure out that *cornucopia* is a horn!

2) **90% of the “big” English words come from Latin!** If there are more than 3 syllables, there’s a 9 out of 10 chance it’s Latin.

3) **Latin students receive higher SAT scores.** This is because our knowledge of the Latin language improves our reading and writing abilities in the English language; therefore you do better in the Reading and Writing portions of the SAT! (Latin 560/546, Hebrew 549/548, Greek 546/538, French 524/516, Spanish 500/492.)

4) **Latin enhances a study in any Romance language!** Interested in learning French, Italian, Spanish, Romanian, or Portuguese? Our Latin knowledge provides the grammar and vocabulary to study these languages. By learning Latin, you can pick up on any other modern language with awesome skills.

5) **Latin is the language of the Catholic church.** You don’t have to be Catholic though! Latin is inescapable in our culture! For example: around Christmas time, you can sing and understand some of the Latin music, including “Adeste Fideles,” and “Gloria in Excelsis Deo.”

6) **Latin is very commonly found in the cathedrals, museums, and monuments of Europe.** Latin was the universal language of Europe for 200 years! If you are visiting Europe, you will be amazed at all the Latin that will engulf you.

7) **Love Shakespeare?** Well like him, Sir Isaac Newton, J.R.R. Tolkien, and C.S. Lewis were phenomenal Latin learners.

8) **Latin trains our minds to think grammatically.** Knowing that a Latin infinitive (like *amare* “to love”) is a single word makes sense of the rule that you shouldn’t “split” it in English. For example: “to intensely love” used to be considered a bad style when students and teacher both knew their grammar.

9) **We have many Latin abbreviations!** Have you ever seen abbreviations like P.S., P.M., or P.Ch.N.? P.S. is a Latin abbreviation that we use every day meaning “after the text.” It’s used at the end of a letter for example! P.M. we know to mean when the sun goes down and night time. But its Latin meaning is *Post Meridiem* meaning “after noon.” Make sense? Have you ever seen P.Ch.N. in your history books? It is a Latin abbreviation for *Post Christum Natum* meaning “after Christ was born.” Did you hear that? Latin can help you in your history classes!

10) **Latin also pops up in our pop culture!** Within the tv show, Big Bang Theory, one of the main characters, Sheldon Cooper, uses many Latin phrases. For example he says “reductio ad absurdum” (reduction to absurdity), “post hoc, ergo propter hoc” (after this, therefore because this), and “ipso facto” (by the fact itself). Latin also pops up in our pop culture! For example: around Christmas time, you can sing and understand some of the Latin music, including “Adeste Fideles,” and “Gloria in Excelsis Deo.”

Looking Forward to Convention… — Caitlin Lawrence

I really enjoyed the Latin Convention last year because I got to hang around with people who had similar interests, and meet new people who also knew Latin. The knowledge contests were fun—it was cool to see how much we knew and how much we didn’t—and be able to earn ribbons if we did well enough. Also, I thought it was especially cool that we got the opportunity to do impromptu art and that we could participate in the graphics art competition. Both were fun activities that really enhanced the whole experience. There are also skits at convention and a talent show with the opportunity to earn a prize.

Answers to Crossword Puzzle!

Across
2. A male deity
4. A thousand
7. Bread
8. Girl
9. Quartus
11. We grow plants and food in this
13. Mom, dad, son, daughter, and slaves
15. A short, Roman sword
17. An absolute ruler
19. Boy
20. Not a city or a village but a
23. Polyphemus has only one of these
28. Man
29. Roman wallet
30. A woman on the throne
31. A teacher

Down
1. You don’t want a cavity in one of these
3. Mother
5. A body of land surrounded by water
6. Bed
8. A man who watches over sheep
9. Flowing water (like the Nile and Tiberis)
10. The act of creating music with your voice
12. Holy, sacred, saint
14. Truth
16. (adv.) and, so, therefore
18. Breath, life, spirit (derived from “breathe”)
21. Money
22. A pane of glass within a building
24. Animal that doesn’t “bau, bau!”
25. Empty
26. Father
27. You get wool from this animal