



Roman numerals are still used today, as seen engraved on this set of books.



BY THE WAY

The Romans used to count the daytime hours from the first hour, *hōra prīma* (about 6 AM), to the twelfth hour, *hōra duodecima* (about 6 PM). For example, our 11 AM is, according to the Romans, the fifth hour, *hōra quīnta*. The length of the Roman hour varied according to the time of year, since they told time by the sun.

They divided the night into watches: first watch, *vigilia prīma* (about 6 PM–9 PM), second watch, *vigilia secunda* (about 9 PM–midnight), third watch, *vigilia tertia* (about midnight–3 AM), fourth watch, *vigilia quārta* (about 3 AM–6 AM).

LATE FOR SCHOOL

Helena: *Properā (hurry), Mārce! Sumus in morā (delay).*

Mārcus: *Dēbēmusne properāre?*

Helena: *Ita (yes), properāre dēbēmus.*

Mārcus: *Quota hōra est?*

Helena: *Est hōra octāvā et quādrāns.*

Mārcus: *Tum properāre nōn dēbēmus. Nam schola (school) incipit (starts) horā octāvā et dīmidiā (at 8:30).*

Helena: *In scholam tamen hōrā octāvā et quādrante (at 8:15) intrāre dēbēmus. Nam librōs parāre dēbēmus.*

Mārcus: *Ego autem hōram primam exspectō.*

Helena: *Cūr? (Why?)*

Mārcus: *Nam hōrā primā est finis (end) scholārum.*

Helena: *Nōlī dē fine scholārum nunc cōgitāre, sed mēcum venī!*

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