



TEACHING TIP

If you would like to give your students some practice with times and dates, some exercises (with answers) are provided for your convenience.

Time: The teacher may read these sentences aloud and allow the students some time to work on converting the Roman time to English time.

1. Banquets beginning before the ninth hour were called *tempestīva convīvia*.

Answer: 3 P.M.

2. Caesar aroused his soldiers during the third watch to prepare for battle.

Answer: between 12 midnight and 3 A.M.

3. Lucius told his friend to meet him in the Forum at the second hour.

Answer: 8 A.M.

4. *Prandium* was usually served at the fifth hour.

Answer: 11 A.M.

5. What was the hour before sunset called?

Answer: *hōra duodecima*; 6 P.M.

6. Complete the couplet:
The English hour you may fix,
If to the Latin you add _____.

Answer: 6

7. Because each Roman hour was $\frac{1}{12}$ of the time between sunrise and sunset, the length of the hour varied from season to season. When were the hours of night equal to the hours of day?

Answer: During the vernal equinox and the autumnal equinox (March 20 and September 22nd)

Dates:

Originally the Romans only had four months in their calendar—March to June—since it was an agricultural society, and the growing season was the most important. Six more months were added but only given numerical names (*Quintilis–December* = July–December). As town life became more important, King Numa added the two months of January and February. The year still began on March 1st.

Each month had three set dates: The Kalends, which fell on the 1st of each month, the Nones on the 5th or 7th, and the Ides on the 13th or 15th. An old poem helps students remember the system:

In March, July, October, May,

The Ides fall on the 15th day,

The Nones the 7th; and all besides

Are two days less for Nones and Ides.

Arducci Publishers, Inc.

CHAZY.com

ers, Inc. this sample was created
for Texas Proclamation 2017 adoption preview not for distribution.
This document will expire May 31, 2017.

There are two other points to remember about changing Roman dates into modern equivalents. First, the Romans practiced inclusive dating, which means they counted both ends. For example, we would say that Sunday is the second day after Friday; the Romans called it the third day. Secondly, the Romans counted backward from one of the three set dates. Here is an example:

a(nte) d(iem) III Nōn. Iān. (on the third day before the Nones of January) = January 3rd because the Nones falls on the 5th in January and you count both ends.

The teacher may use one of the CPOs to put these dates on display to give students practice on this.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. a.d. VIII Kal. Iān. | Answer: December 25th |
| 2. a.d. III Īd. Iūl. | Answer: July 13th |
| 3. a.d. V Nōn. Oct. | Answer: October 3rd |
| 4. pridīē Īd. Māi. | Answer: May 14th |
| 5. a.d. XII Kal. Nov. | Answer: October 21st |
| 6. a.d. IV Nōn. Feb. | Answer: February 2nd |



TEACHER BY THE WAY

Our calendar today begins on January 1st because in 154 BCE the Romans voted to move back the beginning of their calendar year to that date. Because the empire was growing so large, the day on which the new consuls took their oath of office was advanced so that the ex-consuls could get out to their provinces in time for the start of the campaign season. This travel often took a few months, and if the new generals left in March, military activities would already have been well under way by May or June. Finally, Julius Caesar in 46 BCE reformed the calendar, which was too short for the solar year, and Pope Gregory XIII revised it again to the one we have today. Some of the Orthodox Christian churches still follow the Julian calendar for their holy days.

PAGE 238

Standard 4.1

DERIVATIVES

iūdex – Note that the prefix “in-” of “injudicious” is negative. Note also the “-ous” suffix.

The prefix of “misjudge” is also negative. It comes from the Old English *mis-* meaning “bad or wrong,” and is related to the Old French *mes-*, which has the same meaning but is derived from the Latin *minus*.

See also *iūdicō* 1.6.

nihil – The spelling of “annihilate” is easy for Latin students who can see *nihil* in it. The prefix “an-” comes from *ad* by assimilation; hence the literal meaning “to nothing.”

quid – The original classical meaning of *quid* survived in “quiddity” (the real essence or nature of a thing) during the late 14th century when the word appeared in English. By the 1530s it meant “a trifling nicety in argument, a quibble,” a sense that developed from scholastic disputes over the nature of things.