

Quotes, Phrases, Mottoes, and Abbreviations to Know

Festina Lente — Make Haste, Slowly

- Favorite saying of Emperor Augustus

Veni, vidi, vici — I came, I saw, I conquered

- Said by Julius Caesar after the battle of Zela

Ab urbe condita (a.u.c.) — from the founding of the city

- Used by Livy as a title for his history of Rome from its founding in 753 BC

Ab ovo usque ad mala — from the egg all the way to the apple

- Meaning, “from the beginning to the end,” specifically of a meal

Alea iacta est — The die is cast

- Said by Julius Caesar when he crossed the Rubicon, starting the Civil War with Pompey the Great. It meant that there was no turning back.

SPQR (Senatus Populusque Romanus) —The Senate and the Roman People

- Found on sewer covers, arches, and the Standard (pole carried in battle)

Carthago delenda est — Carthage must be destroyed

- Said by Cato the Censor at the end of all his speeches, before the 3rd Punic War

Semper Paratus — Always Prepared

- Motto of US Coast Guard

Semper fideles — Always faithful

- Motto of the US Marines

Vae Victis! — Woe to the Vanquished!

- Said by Gallic chieftain Brennus when the Gauls sacked Rome in 390 BC

Esse quam videri — To be rather than to seem

- Motto of North Carolina

Dum spiro, spero — While I breathe, I hope

- Motto of South Carolina

Ad astra per aspera — To the stars through difficulty

- Motto of Kansas

M.O. (Modus Operandi) — method of operating

- Legal term, referring to the way a particular criminal operates

Cum grano salis — With a grain of salt

Tempus fugit — Time flies

Ad nauseam — to (the point of) disgust

Non sequitur — it does not follow

Deo volente — God willing

i.e. (id est) — that is

e.g. (exempli gratia) — for the sake of an example

etc. (et cetera) — and so forth

Ibid (Ibidem) — in the same place

Q.E.D. (Quod erat demonstrandum) — which was to be proved

Caveat Emptor — Let the buyer beware

Latina Vivit — Latin Lives

Cave Canem! — Beware of the Dog!

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