

nōmen (real) \_\_\_\_\_ sessiō \_\_\_\_\_<sup>a</sup> d. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>o</sup> m. \_\_\_\_\_ an. \_\_\_\_\_

**(FILL OUT AT THE END!) NŌMEN RŌMĀNUM**

(Also see the “Roman Names” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zrfAzTtGdc>.)

**Quid in nōmine est? (What’s in a Name?)**

A Roman citizen typically had three names: a **praenōmen** or forename, a **nōmen** or family name, and a **cōgnōmen** or surname (which sometimes indicated which particular branch of the family). Most of the **nōmina** end in -ius. The **praenōmina** (*for males only*) are as follows:

Aulus = A.	Lūcius = L	Quīntus = Q.
Appius = Ap.	Mārcus = M.	Servius = Ser.
Gāius = C. or G.	Mānius = M'	Sextus = Sex.
Gnaeus = Cn. or Gn.	Numerius = Num.	Spurius = Sp.
Decimus = D.	Māmercus = Mām.	Titus = T.
Kaesō = K.	Pūblius = P	Tiberius = Ti. or Tib.

The **cōgnōmina** could be *descriptive* (Rūfus “red head,” Strabō “squinter,” Scaevola “lefty,” Pius “pious”); could indicate a *geographic location* if you happened to be a victorious general (Africānus, Crēticus, Germānicus); could be *modified family names* or an *adoptive* name ending in -iānus (Vespasiānus, Octāviānus, Domitiānus), your *slave name*, if you were freed, which was often a Greek name; your *real (native) name*, if you are a client king (Cognidubnus).

Sons were named after their fathers. Daughters had *no praenōmina*, but were called by the feminine of their father’s nōmen. If there were two they were distinguished as *Māior* and *Minor*. Sometimes a diminutive form of the name was used (Iūlia became Iūlilla, Līvia became Līvilla, etc.). In the late Republic and the Empire they often had a cōgnōmen as well. Adoption from one family into another (a common occurrence) was indicated by the termination -iānus. A second **cōgnōmen** was also called an **āgnōmen**. Inscriptional evidence indicates that rules were broken, just like naming conventions of today.

Let’s look at some names (those in italics are the names each went by):

<u>PRAENŌMEN</u>	<u>NŌMEN</u>	<u>CŌGNŌMEN</u>	<u>ĀGNŌMINA</u>	
Mārcus	Tullius	<i>Cicerō</i> (meaning chickpea)		
	<i>Tullia</i> (his daughter, also called <i>Tulliola</i> , demonstrating variation in diminutives)			
Gāius	Iūlius	<i>Caesar</i> (hair? or cut out?)		
	<i>Iūlia</i> (his daughter)			
Gāius	<i>Octāvius</i> (who became . . .)			
Gāius	Iūlius	Caesar	<i>Octāviānus</i>	<i>Augustus</i> (venerable, majestic)
Gāius	Iūlius	Caesar	Germānicus	<i>Caligula</i> (little boots)
Titus	Flāvius	<i>Vespasiānus</i> (named after his mother, Vespasia Polla)		
	Flāvia	<i>Domitilla</i> (his daughter; also the name of his wife)		
Titus	Flāvius	<i>Vespasiānus</i> (his first son)		
	<i>Iūlia</i> (Titus’ daughter, an imperial name)			
Titus	Flāvius	<i>Domitiānus</i> (his second son, named after his mother)		
Tiberius	Claudius	<i>Cognidubnus</i> (who received status as a client king under Claudius or Nērō)		
Tiberius	Claudius	<i>Narcissus</i> (Claudius’ trusted freedman/private secretary)		

So, as you can see, not every male citizen had three names, some had two, some had five (if they were racking up titles). Some daughters were named after their fathers, some were not. And these were famous people; who knows what the common man or woman, who will be lost to history, was really doing with his or her name.

## Quid in nōmine *tuō* est?

We will have a naming ceremony, complete with bullae, on the eighth day of class. On the seventh day of class you will finalize your decision regarding your new Roman name. We are not using full 3 part Roman names, unless you really want one. Consider that you are picking a **cōgnōmen**, a sort of nickname.

The following questions may guide you:

1) *description*. How would you describe yourself? (Consult a Latin-English dictionary.)

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2) *geographic location*. Do you have any strong connection to a geographic location?

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3) *modified family or adoptive name*. Do you want to use a family name or your middle or last name?

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4) *your real first name*. Do you want to use your real first name Latinized\*? For instance, Julie would become Iūlia. If your name does not readily transform into a Latin name, consult a baby naming dictionary or website to see what your name *means* and turn that meaning into Latin.

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**OR if you just want to pick a real Roman name, see the attached list of NŌMINA.**

\* **Latinizing your name** (*Adapted from the handout "Latinized Personal Names" by Jennifer Nelson.*)

1. Biblical names: If your name is a local form of a Biblical name, Latinization is simply a matter of using the Latin form of that name. If you have access to a Vulgate (Latin) Bible that has an index of names you should be able to find the proper Latin form of any Biblical name.

- Anna, -ae = Anna, Anne, Hannah
- Iēremīas, -ae = Jeremy, Jeremías, Geremia
- Iōannes, -is = John, Jean, Giovanni, or Ivan
- Petrus, -ī = Peter, Pierre, Pedro, Per, or Petr
- Rachel, -elis = Rachel, Raquel, Rachele

2. Saints' names: Saints' names will almost always have a known Latin form:

- Didācus, -ī = Diego
- Iācōbus, -ī = James, Jacques, Jaime, Jacob, Jakob
- Laurentius, -ī = Lorenzo or Lawrence

3. If the name is not a Biblical one, Latinize by simply adding -us (for males) or -a (for females), or leave closer to their original form and decline like 3rd declension nouns:

- Robertus, -ī = Robert
- Ricardus, -ī = Richard
- Henricus, -ī = Henry
- Dionysius, -ī = Dennis
- Gertrūdis, -is = Gertrude
- Gastō, -ōnis = Gaston

# Want to just pick a name?

NŌMINA (-us for guys, -a for gals)

Acīlius/a	Coccēius/a	Grātius/a	Nautius/a	Sertōrius/a
Aebūtius/a	Coelius/a	Hērennius/a	Numerius/a	Servīlius/a
Aelius/a	Cominius/a	Hirtius/a	Numīcius/a	Sextius/a
Aemilius/a	Cornēlius/a	Horātius/a	Octāvius/a	Sicinius/a
Albius/a	Coruncānius/a	Hortēnsius/a	Ovidius/a	Suētōnius/a
Amātius/a	Cūriātius/a	Hostīlius/a	Papīrius/a	Sulpicius/a
Annaeus/a	Curius/a	Iūlius/a	Pētrōnius/a	Tarpēius/a
Annius/a	Curtius/a	Iūnius/a	Pīnārius/a	Tarquitius/a
Antōnius/a	Decius/a	Iuventius/a	Pompēius/a	Terentius/a
Arrius/a	Dīdius/a	Laelius/a	Pompilius/a	Titinius/a
Artorius/a	Domitius/a	Licinius/a	Pontius/a	Titūrius/a
Āsinius/a	Dūilius/a	Līvius/a	Popilius/a	Tuccius/a
Ātīlius/a	Fabius/a	Lūcīlius/a	Porcius/a	Tullius/a
Ātius/a	Fābrius/a	Lūcrētius/a	Postumius/a	Ulpius/a
Aurēlius/a	Fannius/a	Manlius/a	Rutilius/a	Valerius/a
Caecilius/a	Flāvius/a	Marcus/a	Sallustius/a	Vēdius/a
Caelius/a	Fulvius/a	Marius/a	Salvius/a	Vellēius/a
Calidius/a	Fūrius/a	Memmius/a	Scrībōnius/a	Vergilius/a
Calpurnius/a	Gabīnius/a	Menēnius/a	Sēius/a	Verginius/a
Cassius/a	Galērius/a	Mīnucius/a	Semprōnius/a	Vibius/a
Claudius/a	Gellius/a	Mūcius/a	Sentius/a	Vipsānius/a
Cloelius/a	Genucilius/a	Naevius/a	Sergius/a	Vitellius/a
				Vitrūvius/a
				Volumnius/a

*Based on the gēns list from [http://www.novaroma.org/nr/Choosing\\_a\\_Roman\\_name](http://www.novaroma.org/nr/Choosing_a_Roman_name) and checked against Lewis & Short.*