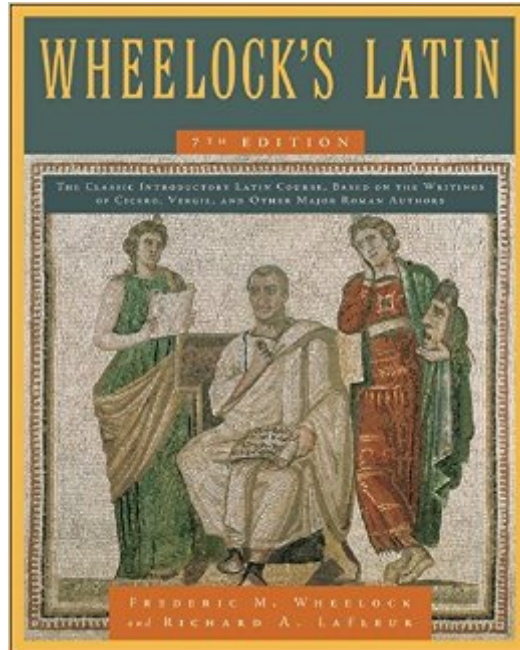


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# Wheelock's Latin 7th Edition (The Wheelock's Latin Series)



## Synopsis

For nearly sixty years, Wheelock's Latin has remained the optimus liber of beginning Latin textbooks. When Professor Frederic M. Wheelock's Latin first appeared in 1956, the reviews extolled its thoroughness, organization, and conciseness; one reviewer predicted that the book "might well become the standard text" for introducing students to elementary Latin. Now, nearly six decades later, that prediction has certainly proved accurate. This new edition of Wheelock's Latin has all of the features, many of them improved and expanded, that have made it the bestselling single-volume beginning Latin textbook: 40 chapters with grammatical explanations and readings drawn from the works of Rome's major prose and verse writers; Self-tutorial exercises, each with an answer key, for independent study; An extensive English&#150;Latin/Latin&#150;English vocabulary section; A rich selection of original Latin readings&#151;unlike other Latin textbooks, which contain primarily made-up texts; Etymological aids, maps, and dozens of images illustrating aspects of the classical culture and mythology presented in the chapter readings. Also included are expanded notes on the literary passages, comments on vocabulary, and translation tips; new comprehension and discussion questions; and new authentic classical Latin readings, including Roman graffiti, in every chapter.

## Book Information

Series: The Wheelock's Latin Series

Paperback: 608 pages

Publisher: Collins Reference; 7 edition (June 7, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061997226

ISBN-13: 978-0061997228

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 1.5 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (167 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Wheelock is an excellent textbook in many ways, and this new edition makes it more attractive than

ever (load of new photos, comprehension questions to accompany the readings, etc.) As before, the presentation of the grammar is clear and well-organized, and there are lots of great ancillaries to help you get through the book. By far its biggest draw-back, however, has not been ameliorated: the lack of reading passages of any significant length. This means that the course, while teaching the grammar and syntax quite nicely, does not develop proficiency in reading Latin as much as it should. Students who finish Wheelock often have great difficulty making the transition to reading actual Latin texts (if the assignments are of any significant length). To avoid this, a student learning from Wheelock (or really any traditional "grammar-translation" method) should supplement his or her studies with extended reading passages as soon as possible (certainly from the latter half of Wheelock to the end). It isn't necessarily easy to find a decent amount of reading material suited to this purpose, but it seems to be getting easier: there has been something of an explosion in this genre in recent years. One choice for more significant supplementary readings might be *War with Hannibal: Authentic Latin Prose for the Beginning Student*. It presents a considerable amount of a real Latin (enough to get you acquainted with reading Latin prose, yet not so much that you can't finish the book), and includes helpful notes geared toward the beginning student. Of course there's also the beautiful new reader by Prof.

As a university and private Latin teacher who has used Wheelock for many years, I have to admit to being somewhat disappointed with the new Seventh Edition (2011). My basic complaint is that it is too cumbersome and too much. The original Wheelock's Latin, published by Barnes & Noble, had a little over 200 pages. The Seventh Edition (2011) has almost 600 pages! Moreover, the physical size of the book has been greatly increased, from a large paperback (13 cm wide by 20.5 cm wide by 2 cm thick) to a workbook size (18.5 cm wide by 23 cm high by 3.5 cm thick). Starting with the Fifth Edition (1995), the new editor, Richard LaFleur, and the new publisher, HarperCollins, seem to have forgotten Callimachus's classical aphorism: "mega biblion, mega kakon," a big book is a big evil! No longer can one attempt to carry this book like a somewhat-oversized paperback. The new material, particularly the extra continuous classical Latin passages, supplementing Wheelock's traditional 40 chapters is mostly useful, but if the basic content was to be expanded, the latter half of the book should have been reserved for a second, separate volume. The idea that one book can fit all needs is not practical. It is obvious that the Seventh Edition has increased "white space": large margins and wide space between lines. However, I have never known a student who uses the margins for notes. The end result for the Seventh Edition is an overly cumbersome book. The size of the book could have been reduced, and the typeface, which is something like an eye-straining 10

points, could have been increased to at least 11 points.

Having been either a student or a teacher for most of my life, I'm familiar with many textbooks. My enduring desire to master Latin is leading me to work through Wheelock's 6th edition. It's the most excellent textbook--in any subject--that I've known. My tendency to write many notes right on the pages is wearing my copy out before I can make the greatest use of it. As a remedy, I've purchased the 7th edition. This new version is even more thorough and is beautifully assembled with attractive art work and very readable typefaces. Professor LaFleur has included expanded explanations of points of grammar and usage and commented more extensively on vocabulary and etymology. More passages from the classical Latin authors offer greater depth of insight into Roman outlooks and values. The inclusion of ancient inscriptions adds liveliness. As very helpful supplements, I use "Workbook for Wheelock's Latin," by LaFleur and Comeau, and "A Comprehensive Guide to Wheelock's Latin" by Dale A. Grote. Like the writings of Professors Wheelock, LaFleur and Comeau, Mr. Grote's commentary shows extensive experience teaching Latin in the classroom. I'm learning much from these presentations; and I strongly suspect that, by using them, other students will find the study of Latin both accessible and interesting. Wheelock's Latin 7th Edition

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