

*Latin loan words  
in  
Old English  
period*

*The English language has borrowed extensively from the Latin language beginning during the Germanic period before English was English through the Old English period and up to the early Modern English period.*

*It was quite otherwise with the second great influence exerted upon English - that of Latin - and the circumstances under which they met. Latin was not the language of a conquered people.*

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*It was the language of a higher civilization, a civilization from which the English had much to learn. Contact with that civilization extended over many centuries: it began long before the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain and continued throughout the Old English period.*

*a) The first period of Latin borrowings - during the Roman occupation (43 AD until the middle of the 5th century). During the first period the contact was military and commercial.*



*There were two distinct occasions on which borrowings from Latin occurred in the Old English period:*



*b) The second period of Latin borrowings began with the introduction of Christianity into Britain in 597. The contact was religious and intellectual. This was the most important influence of Latin upon Old English*

The words borrowed from Latin may be subdivided into several categories:

- i. Terms connected with military life (introduced during the first period of Latin borrowings):

- e.g. wæl (<L. vallum) 'wall'

- stræt (<L. strata via) 'street', 'road'

• ii. Terms connected with **domestic life, clothes, food:**

• e.g. *cīese* (<L. *caseus*) 'cheese'; *pīpor* 'pepper'

• *butere* (<L. *butyrum*) 'butter'; *wīn* 'wine'

• *dīsc* (<L. *discus*) 'dish'

- *iii. Terms connected with trade:*

- *e.g. pund 'pound', cēap 'cheap', 'bargain'*

• iv. **Ecclesiastical, religious terms** (introduced during the second period of Latin borrowings):

• e.g. *ælmese* 'alms'; *abbod* 'abbot'; *bisceop* 'bishop';

• *candel* 'candle'; *deofol* 'devil'; *munuc* 'monk';

• *nunna* 'nun'; *preost* 'priest'



- v. Terms connected with *education, learning*:
- e.g. *scōl* 'school'; *mæzister* 'master'; *fers* 'verse'

## Early Latin Loans during the Continental period

<i>Old English</i>	<i>New English</i>	<i>Latin Origin</i>
belt	belt	balteus
butere	butter	butyrum
camp	field, battle	campus
candel	candle	candela
catt	cat	cattus
ceaster	city	castra
cetel	kettle	catillus
cupp	cup	cuppa
cycene	kitchen	coquina
cyse	cheese	caseus

## Early Latin Loans (continued)

<i>Old English</i>	<i>New English</i>	<i>Latin Origin</i>
draca	dragon	draco
mæsse	mass	missa
mil	mile	mille
minte	mint	menta
munuc	monk	monachus
mynster	minster	monasterium
panne	pan	panna
piper	pepper	piper
pise	pea	pisum
plante	plant	planta

# *Questions to you:*

*Was Latin the language  
of a conquered people?*

- How many distinct occasions were there on which borrowings from Latin occurred in the Old English period?

*• Can you name the terms connected with military life ?*

*Thanks for you attention!!!*