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**Agora Academy Unit 1 Lessons 1-3  
Language Origins and Latin Conventions**

**Part I: Think-Write-Pair-Share.**Please consider the following question: *How can learning any language have a positive impact on your life?*  *What positive impacts do you hope to gain specifically from learning Latin?*

Your response:

Partner’s response:

**Part II: Origins of Language** *Here, we will take a few minutes to consider the origins of language in general and Latin in particular.**Please attempt to answer all the questions below on our own, and then we will figure out the correct answers as a class.*

1. What was the first written language? Where and when was it first used?

*Student attempt:*

*Correct answer: The first written language was Sumerian. It first appears around 3000 BC in Mesopotamia.*

2. What other Mediterranean Language is often associated with Latin? When did that language develop?

*Student attempt:*

*Correct answer: Greek. The written form of the Greek language developed around 800 BC.*

3. When and where did the Roman alphabet develop?

*Student attempt:*

*Correct answer: Probably around 500 BC. It evolved from the Etruscan language.*

**Part III: Latin Conventions** *In many ways, Latin works differently than English. Below, we will explore some of the aspects of Latin that might be unfamiliar to non-native speakers…*

*Some of the answers to the questions below are covered in the Agora videos accompanying this lesson. There are a few questions, however, that students might have to research on their own.*

1. Which letters from our alphabet were not used by the Romans? J and W

2. Please explain the use of a macron. Macrons lengthen vowels.

3. What, in your opinion, is the biggest difference between English and Latin? Why? In Latin, meaning is not signified by word order.

4. Please circle the two languages that contributed the most to the development of English.

a. Greek

b. Latin

c. French

d. Spanish

e. German

5. Please define the term *Romance Language*? Why do we give these languages that name? A Romance language is a language that developed from Latin, i.e. the language of *Rome.* The term has nothing to do with romance in the sense that we usually understand it!

6. Please circle the languages that think might be considered *romance languages*.

a. French e. Polish

b. Italian f. Portuguese

c. Russian h. Romanian

d. English i. Spanish

**Part IV: Think-Write-Pair-Share:** Please consider the following question: *In what ways was life in Ancient Rome similar to our lives today? In what ways was it different?*

Your response:

Partner’s response:

**Part V: Reflection Question Summarizer**

Why do you think Latin has survived thousands of years after it stopped being actively spoken? Why did you sign up to take Latin class? What do you hope to learn and how do you expect that Latin will help you in other subjects and later in life?