

Ancient Languages First Aid (ALFA)

Top Tips Cheat Sheet



Setting yourself up:

- α **Fight the Freakout!** Learning a new language can be intimidating, especially if your knowledge of grammar is a bit hazy. Brush up on grammatical terminology using our **ALFA Kit**, available from our website: http://telesangels.com/?page_id=97

Learning the basics:

- α Everybody learns in different ways and at different rates. Utilise a variety of study methods to stimulate your memory.
- α These may include: **flash cards** with vocabulary and grammatical terminology, **repetitive writing**, or reading your vocabulary **out loud** or to a friend. You may like to develop **memory triggers**, such as finding words that rhyme with your vocabulary. You can **immerse yourself** in the language by decorating your room with post-it notes, charts or posters. Finally, don't forget to keep **testing yourself** to consolidate your newly acquired knowledge.
- α Whenever you learn a **new grammatical rule** in class, be sure to **write it down** so you don't forget. Once you understand the basic principals of your ancient language, it will be easier to build upon that knowledge in future semesters.
- α **Be willing to accept differences** – just because one language follows certain rules, it doesn't mean all languages will. Don't be put off by **exceptions to rules** - go after what is 'irregular' and 'scary.'

Extending yourself:

- α Remember that you are not alone! If you feel stuck in class, speak to your **lecturer** or a **classmate**.
- α The Faculty of Arts has developed programs such as **Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS)** for Ancient Greek and Latin. Sessions are free, and offer a chance to revise and consolidate material.
- α Create your own **study group** with your fellow classmates.
- α Utilise the plethora of **resources** at your fingertips, including **hardcopy** textbooks, grammars, and lexicons; **online** dictionaries and databases; and **apps** for your smartphone or tablet.
- α For a full list of resources available for Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Middle Egyptian and Coptic, see our 'Fight the Freakout' document on our website: http://telesangels.com/?page_id=97
- α **Be active in your language acquisition**, and go the extra mile by doing **independent reading** during or in between semesters; you can also attend language classes between semesters, such as at the **Macquarie Ancient Languages School (MALS)** or the **Sydney Latin Summer School (SLSS)**.

Five Ways to Fight the Freakout!

- α Here are 5 strategies for easing into learning an ancient language. It's simple – just think "**LATIN!**"

L – Learn the basics of English grammar

A – Apply a variety of study methods to learn vocabulary

T – Train your language muscles like you would any other muscle – repetition is key!

I – Identify and memorise the basic rules and principals of the ancient language

N – Never remain silent! If lost, ask your lecturer, friend, classmate, PASS leader or study group

✉ telesangels@gmail.com

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