
詞彙：Latin 拉丁語

The Romans lived in Britain between 43AD and 410AD but their **legacy** is still felt today and not just in physical **ruins**. The Romans left us language, including some common English words.

During the Roman **Empire**, Latin, an **ancient** language, was spoken in many parts of Britain. While the Romans wrote in classical Latin, they **conversed** in **vulgar** Latin – **colloquial**, everyday language that was used between soldiers and in **trade**. Because of trade, words that **stuck** often relate to food and drink, such as ‘**wine**’, which came from the Latin ‘vinum’. Others relate to **dwelling**s such as ‘kitchen’, derived from the verb ‘cook’, and ‘wall’, which originally referred to a **stake** or post outside a **fort**.

Settlements and roads in Roman times were **extensive**. The word ‘street’, used generally as well as being used for specific names of streets, originally came from ‘strata’ which meant **paved** road. On a similar note, academic research from the field of linguistics indicates many well-known place names in the UK **owe their origin** to Latin. For example, the Romans used ‘castrum’ to refer to a city, which developed into the common place ending -chester, -caster or -cester. Consider Manchester. It is a **former** Roman fort which was known as Mamuciam. Other places with Roman **derivations** include Lancaster and Leicester.

A significant impact on English which came from the Romans is the use of the Roman **alphabet**. **Manuscripts** of Old English texts have shown a version not unlike written English today. Differences include some letters however, such as two symbols called ‘ash’ and ‘eth’. Nowadays you are more likely to see these symbols in a guide to pronunciation.

So, even though 1,600 years have passed, the Romans live on.

詞彙表

legacy	遺產
ruins	遺址
Empire	帝國
ancient	古老的
converse	和...交談
vulgar	通俗的
colloquial	口語的，非正式的
trade	買賣，貿易
stuck	保留下來
wine	紅酒
dwellings	房屋
stake	樁子
fort	堡壘
settlements	定居點
extensive	廣闊的，覆蓋範圍廣的
paved	鋪砌的
owe their origin	起源於
former	早前的
derivations	衍生物，起源
alphabet	字母表
manuscript	手寫本

測驗與練習

1. 閱讀課文並回答問題。

1. True or false? *The Romans left behind physical ruins and some language.*
2. What language did the Romans write in?
3. Why did words related to food and drink stay in English?
4. What did the Latin word 'strata' mean?
5. Which three places originally derived from Latin place names?

2. 選擇意思恰當的單字或片語來完成下列句子。

1. All that is left of the civilization are _____ of ancient buildings.

settlements	ruins	fort	dwelling
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2. Zoe didn't enjoy her _____ job as much as her new one.

ancient	colloquial	vulgar	former
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3. They _____ luxury goods at the market.

alphabet	trade	manuscript	language
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4. His novel was considered his _____ when he died.

origin	derivation	left	legacy
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5. He had studied both contemporary and _____ acting.

classical	extensive	significant	everyday
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答案

1. 閱讀課文並回答問題。

1. True or false? *The Romans left behind physical ruins and some language.*

True. They left physical ruins and some common words still used today.

2. What language did the Romans write in?

The Romans wrote in classical Latin.

3. Why did words related to food and drink stay in English?

Because they were used in trade.

4. What did the Latin word 'strata' mean?

'Strata' originally meant 'paved road' and evolved into the word 'street'.

5. Which three places originally derived from Latin place names?

Manchester, Lancaster and Leicester.

2. 選擇意思恰當的單字或片語來完成下列句子。

1. All that is left of the civilization are **ruins** of ancient buildings.

2. Zoe didn't enjoy her **former** job as much as her new one.

3. They **trade** luxury goods at the market.

4. His novel was considered his **legacy** when he died.

5. He had studied both contemporary and **classical** acting.