

Prosody: *Ars Amatoria*

antepenult

penult

ultima

Prosody: The pronunciation of words with attention to vowel quantities, accent, rhythm, versification.
Scansion: Marking the longs and shorts.

Accent:

- Disyllabic words are accented on the penult (*miles*).
- Polysyllabic words are accented on the penult if the penult is long. If the penult is short, then the accent falls on the antepenult (*mandáre* vs. *mándere*).
- Enclitics (-que, -ve, -ne) add an accent to the ultima, if the accent falls on the antepenult (*lúmináque*).
- Enclitics shift the accent to the ultima, if the accent falls on the penult (*amaréve*).

A syllable is short if:

- It ends in a short vowel and is followed by only one consonant

A syllable is long if:

- It is long by nature (*mensa*).
- It is followed by a double letter (*rex*)
- It is followed by two consonants whether or not those consonants are in the same word (*tum licet*).
- It is a diphthong.

Some quirks:

- *h* is not treated as a consonant. Ignore it when scanning.
- *i* is sometimes treated as a consonant (*iam*).
- *qu* is a single consonant (*-que*)

Elision:

- When a word ends in a vowel or a vowel plus *m*, then the first vowel is ignored when scanning the line. Note "In reading it is usual to suppress elided syllables. Strictly, however, they should be sounded lightly" (A&G 612e).
- Hiatus: elision is sometimes ignored.

Syllabification:

- Syllables should be divided between the vowel and a single consonant (*vi-rum* and not *vir-um*).
- A vowel followed by two consonants should be should have a division between the consonants (*ar-ma*).
- Exception: stops (p, b, t, d, k, g) + liquids (l, r), e.g. *pa-tres*, scans as short rather than long (although sometimes it is still long).

Dactyl: — u u

Spondee: — —

Metron = foot

Thesis: "putting down" the foot (sometimes referred to as masculine); stressed or accented part of the foot. The thesis of the foot is the initial long of the dactyl.

Arsis: "raising" the foot (sometimes referred to as feminine); unstressed or unaccented part of the foot. The arsis of the foot occurs with the two shorts.

Ictus ("beat"): "The stress of voice laid upon the thesis" (A&G 611a); ictus overrides accent (*ca-no*).

Caesura: a pause in the line where a new idea is introduced, occurring where a word ends in the middle of a foot. Here is the reader pauses before moving to the next syllable.

- Technically a caesura can appear in any foot, and there can be more than one.
- The principle caesura usually occurs in the third foot, although it can also occur in the second and fourth foot, but not the first or sixth and rarely the fifth.
- A caesura can be either strong (after the initial long) or weak (after the first short in a dactyl).

Diaresis: the end of a foot that coincides with the end of a word.

arma virumque cano Troiae qui primus ab oris

Illa leget tempus (medici quoque tempora servant)

Quo facilis dominae mens sit et apta capi.

Mens erit apta capi tum, cum laetissima rerum

Ut seges in pingui luxuriabit humo.

Pectora dum gaudent nec sunt adstricta dolore,

Ipsa patent, blanda tum subit arte Venus.