



## Consonants.

The consonants must be articulated with a certain crispness; otherwise the reading becomes unintelligible, weak and nerveless.

**C** coming before **e**, **ae**, **oe**, **i**, **y** is pronounced like *ch* in *Church*.

e. g. *caelum* = *che-loom*; *Cecília* = *che-cheé-lee-a*.

**CC** before the same vowels is pronounced *T-ch*.

e. g. *ecce* = *et-che*; *siccitas* = *seét-chee-tas*.

**SC** before the same vowels is pronounced like *Sh* in *shed*.

e. g. *Descéndit* = *de-shén-deet*.

Except for these cases **C** is always pronounced like the English **K**.

e. g. *cáritas* = *káh-ree-tas*.

**CH** is always like **K** (even before **E** or **I**).

e. g. *Cham* = *Kam*, *máchina* = *má-kee-na*.

**G** before **e**, **ae**, **oe**, **i**, **y**, is soft as in *generous*.

e. g. *mági*, *génitor*, *Regina*.

Otherwise **G** is hard as in *Government*.

e. g. *Gubernátor*, *Vigor*, *Ego*.

**GN** has the softened sound given to these letters in French and Italian.

e. g. *agneau*, *Signor*, *Monsignor*.

The nearest English equivalent would be **N** followed by **y**.

e. g. *Ah-nyoh*, *Regnum* = *Reh-nyoom*; *Magníficat* = *Mah-nyeeé-fee-caht*.

**H** is pronounced **K** in the two words *nihil* (*nee-keel*) and *mihi*, (*mee-kee*) and their compounds. In ancient books these words are often written *nichil* and *michi*. In all other cases **H** is mute.

**J** often written as **I**, is treated as **Y**, forming one sound with the following vowel.

*Jam* = *yam*; *alleluia* = *allelóoya*; *major* = *ma-yor*.

**R**: when with another consonant, care must be taken not to omit this sound. It must be slightly rolled on the tongue v. g. *Carnis*.

Care must be taken not to modify the quality of the vowel in the syllable preceding the **R**:

e. g. *Kýrie*: Do not say *Kear-ee-e* but *Kée-ree-e*

*Sápere*: Do not say *Sah-per-e* but *Sáh-pe-re*

*Diligere*: Do not say *Dee-lee-ger-e* but *Dee-lée-ge-re*

**S** is hard as in the English word *sea* but is slightly softened when coming between two vowels.

e. g. *misericórdia*.

**TI** standing before a vowel and following any letter (except **S. X. T.**) is pronounced *tsee*.

e. g. *PA TI ÉNTIA* = *Pa-t-see-én-t-see-a*.

*GRÁTIA* = *Grá-t-see-a*.

*CONSTITÚTIO* = *Con-stee-tú-t-see-o*.

*LAETÍTIA* = *Lae-tée-t-see-a*.

Otherwise the **T** is like the English *T*.

**TH** always simply **T**. *Thómas, cathólicam*.

**X** is pronounced *ks*, slightly softened when coming between two vowels.

e. g. *exércitus*.

**XC** before *e, ae, oe, i, y* = **KSH**.

e. g. *Excélsis* = *ek-shél-sees*.

Before others vowels **XC** has the ordinary hard sound of the letters composing it.

e. g. **KSC** *excussórum* = *eks-coos-só-room*.

**Y** in Latin is reckoned among the vowels and is sounded like **I**.

**Z** is pronounced *dz*. *zizánia*.

All the rest of the consonants **B, D, F, K, L, M, N, P, Q, V** are pronounced as in English.

Double Consonants must be clearly sounded

e. g. *Bello* = *bel-lo*, not the English *bellow*

Examples : *Abbas, Joánnem, Innocens, piíssime, terra*.

In the pronunciation and singing of a word the "Golden Rule" must always be kept :

"Never take breath just before a fresh syllable of a word".

Example :

ut non intré-tis in ten-ta-ti-ó-nem.

A person who is unable to sing this phrase from the quarter-bar to the end in one breath, must be careful not to breathe just before a fresh syllable (at *a* or *b*). The lesser evil would be to breathe *after* the long note and off its value :

in ten-ta-ti-ó-nem.