

Web resources for *Ubi Fera Sunt* • Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*

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Mauritiō Sendaciō, Magistrō Fābulārum et Pictūrārum

—For Maurice Sendak, Master of Stories and Pictures—

Vocabulary

All Latin words employed in *Ubi Fera Sunt* are glossed here with their English meanings; definitions are based routinely on the authoritative *Oxford Latin Dictionary (OLD)*. English derivatives, a few famous quotations, and explanatory notes are included, in italics, as vocabulary aids. For those readers whose Latin may be a tad rusty, cross-references are employed when a word's stem may not be easily recognizable from the form seen in the text, especially when the form's first two letters are not identical to those of the vocabulary entry (e.g., "**eius**: see **is**").

The following standard abbreviations are employed:

abl. = ablative
acc. = accusative
adj. = adjective
adv. = adverb
cf. = *cōnfer*/"compare"
conj. = conjunction
e.g. = *exemplī grātiā*/"for example"
f. = feminine
gen. = genitive
lit. = literally
m. = masculine

n. = neuter
pl. = plural
prep. = preposition
pron. = pronoun
sg. = singular
s.v. = *sub vōce*/"under the word," i.e., under the dictionary's word entry.

The number (1) indicates a regular 1st-conjugation verb, with principal parts ending in -ō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum, like *amō, amāre, amāvī, amātum*.

Vocābula

abeō, abire, abii, abitum, to go (away) ("*abitur*," a word used in Germany for high-school graduation exams; cf. "exit," from the related verb **exeō**)

abinde, adv. from there/here (*aberrant, absent*)

ad, prep. + acc. to, toward (*advent, ad hominem*)

adhūc, adv. as yet, still

adsum, adesse, adfuī, to be present, be (here/there/where) (*the Christmas carol "Adeste Fideles" = lit. Be Present, Ye Faithful Ones*)

aliquis, aliqua, aliquid, pron. someone, something (*related to alius below*)

alius, alia, aliud, gen. **alterius**, other, another (*alias, alien*)

amō (1), to love (*amorous, amatory*); **amābō tē**, idiom with commands and regularly singular, please (*lit., I will love you—an endearing way to charm someone into doing your bidding!*)

annus, anni, m. year (*annual, annals*)

appellō (1), to speak to, call (by name) (*appellation, appeal*)

atque, conj. and (indeed), and (what is more) (*a stronger connective than et, used to introduce a particularly emphatic word or clause*)

bonus, bona, bonum, good (*bona fide, bonus*)

caleō, calēre, caluī, to be hot (*calorie, scald*)

camara (camera), camarae, f. (vaulted or arched) ceiling (*the Romans had other words for "ceiling"—e.g., tēctum, which commonly meant roof, and, for a paneled ceiling, lacūnar—but camara was used by Valerius Maximus 6.7.2 [OLD 1.b] specifically to distinguish between the outer roof, tēctum, and the ceiling of a cubiculum, and so is especially apt here*)

cēna, cēnae, f. dinner (*cenacle*)

circumundique, adv. all around, on all sides (*circumference*)

clāmō (1), to shout (*clamor, exclaim*)

comedō, comesse (comedere), comēdī, comēsūm, to eat up, consume (*an intensive form of edō below; “comestibles” are things yummy to eat—and have you ever heard a mom exclaim to her baby, “You’re so cute I could just EAT YOU UP!?”*)

cōnīvēō, cōnīvēre, cōnīvī, to close the eyes, blink;
cōnīvendī, gerund, blinking (*connive*)

crēscō, crēscere, crēvī, crētum, to be born, grow, increase (*crescens, crescendo*)

cubiculum, cubiculī, n. (bed)room (*cubicle, recumbent*)

cum, prep. + abl. with (*in combined forms like “kitchen-cum-dining room,” and in compounds like “commune,” “collaborate”*)

cumba, cumbae, f. (small) boat, skiff

dē, prep. + abl. (down) from (*descend, depend—lit. “to hang from,” like the magical vines hanging down from Max’s bedroom ceiling*)

dēns, dentis, m. tooth (*dental, dentist*)

dēsiderō (1), to desire, want (*desiderata, desiderative*)

dēsīnō, dēsīnere, dēsīvī, dēsītum, to leave off, give up (*doing something*)

dēsistō, dēsistere, dēstitī, to cease, stop (*desist*)

dīcō, dīcere, dīxī, dīctum, to say, tell (*commonly used in classical Latin to introduce “indirect statement,” but also employed with direct quotations, as it is in this translation, by Cicero, Horace, and others; diction, contradict*)

diemque: see **diēs** and **-que**

diēs, diēī, m. day (*diary, carpe diem*)

dolus, dolī, m. trickery, trick (*dolus: a legal term for malicious deception or fraud*)

domō, domāre, domuī, domītum, to tame (*indomitable*)

dum, conj. till, until

ea: see **is**

edō, esse, ēdī, ēsum, to eat; **edendī**, gerund, eating (*edible, obese; cf. comedō above*)

eius: see **is**

ēnāvīgō (1), to sail off (*navigable, navigate; cf. renāvīgō below*)

eōrum: see **is**

erat: see **sum**

esset: see **edō**

est: see **sum** (*used with perfect tense forms of passive and deponent verbs*)

et, conj. and (*etc. = et cetera, et al. = et alii*)

eum: see **is**

ex, prep. + abl. from, out of (*exit, expatriate*)

exclāmō (1), to cry (out) (*a compound form of clāmō above; exclamation, exclamatory*)

fābula, fābulae, f. story, tale (*fabulous, fable*)

faciō, facere, fēcī, factum, to do, make; *passive, become* (*facile, factory*)

fēcērunt: see **faciō**

ferōx, ferōcis, wild, fierce (*ferocious, ferocity; related to ferus below; the superlative ferōcissimūm is used here instead of ferissimūm, superlative of ferus, which, though attested, was rare in classical Latin*)

ferus, fera, ferum, wild; **ferum and fera**, n. substantive, wild thing(s) (*which are “feral” and sometimes “ferocious”!*)

fremitus, fremītūs, m. roar, growl (*fremitus: a medical term used especially for the vibration felt in the chest when a person coughs*)

fremō, fremere, fremuī, fremītum, to roar, growl (*related to the preceding noun*)

frendō, frendere, frēsūm, to grind or gnash one’s teeth in rage (**frendō** and “grind” are cognates—no surprise when you “hear” the REND/RIND connection)

gerō, gerere, gessī, gestum, to carry (on), wear, have on (*gesture, belligerent*)

hebdomas, hebdomados, f. end of a seven-day period, week (*a Greek form, used by Varro, Cicero, and others; hebdomadal*)

iactō (1), to shake, wave (*projectile, reject*); **manum iactāre**, to wave (the hand) (*there is no evidence that the ancient Romans used hand waving as a gesture of either greeting or farewell, so this phrase may be considered “neo-Latin” and, with valedictō, essentially = to wave good-bye. Hand kissing—er, on the other hand—WAS a common farewell gesture, but we shouldn’t expect poor Max, in his haste to depart, to kiss all those huge pointy-clawed paws!*)

igitur, conj. therefore, so (*“igitur,” like “ergo,” which has the same meaning, is occasionally used as an English word*)

ille, illa, illud, that (*derivatives include lots of French “le” and “la” words, like “LaFleur”!*)

in, prep. + abl. in, on, + acc. into, onto (*in loco parentis, “in the place of a parent,” one of countless Latin phrases that have come directly into English*)

incipiō, incipere, incēpī, inceptum, to begin, start (*incipient, inception*)

ingredior, ingredī, ingressus sum, to step into (*ingress, egress*)

intueor, intuērī, intuitus sum, to fix one’s gaze, stare (*intuit, intuition*); **intuendī**, gerund, staring: *the phrase dolō intuendī is an “appositional genitive,” like ars scribendī, the art of writing*

inveniō, invenīre, invēnī, inventum, to come upon, find (*invent, inventory*)

ipse, ipsa, ipsum, *gen. ipsius*, himself, herself, itself; (the) very (*ipso facto, solipsistic*)

is, ea, id, *gen. eius, m. acc. eum, m./n. gen. pl. eōrum, n. acc. pl. ea*, he, she, it, they; *when preceding a noun, e.g., eā nocte*, this, that, the (particular)

lectus, lectī, *m.* bed (*litter, coverlet*)

locus, locī, *m.* place (*locale, location*)

longē, *adv.* far (away), a long way (*longitude*)

lupīnus, lupīna, lupīnum, of/belonging to a wolf (*lupine*)

lūridus, lūrida, lūridum, (pale, sickly) yellow, ghastly (*lurid; Latin has several words for yellow, but this one is the scariest, ghastliest, most LURID shade!*)

magicus, magica, magicum, magical, magic (*magician*)

malum, malī, *n.* bad, evil, mischief (*malefactor, malice*)

maneō, manēre, mānsī, mānsūm, to remain, wait (for) (*remain, permanent*)

manus, manūs, *f.* hand (*manufacture, manuscript*)

māter, mātris, *f.* mother (*maternal, alma mater*)

Maximus, Maximī, *m.* Maximus, Max (*personal name; as an adj., maximus = greatest, biggest, bravest, which is what our hero Max most certainly is!*)

mittō, mittere, mīsī, missum, to send (*mission, emit*)

modus, modī, *m.* quantity, measure, kind (*mode, modify*)

mōnstrō (1), to show, point out (*demonstrate, monster*)

mundus, mundī, *m.* sky, universe, world (*mundane*)

nōlō, nōlle, nōluī, to be unwilling; *sg. imperative, nōlī + infinitive*, be unwilling (to), do not (*nolo contendere, nol. pros.*)

nōn, *adv.* not; *in response to questions or commands*, no (*non sequitur, nonplus*)

nox, noctis, *f.* night (*nocturnal, equinox*)

nunc, *adv.* now (*a "quidnunc," lit. "what now?!" is a BUSYBODY!*)

Ō, *interjection*, oh!

ōceanus, ōceanī, *m.* ocean (*oceanic, transoceanic*)

oculus, oculī, *m.* eye (*oculist, binocular*)

olfaciō, olfacere, olfēcī, olfactum, to detect the odor of, smell (*olfaction, olfactory*)

omnis, omne, all, every (*omniscient, omnivorous*)

optimē, *superlative adv.* best (*optimal, optimist*)

paene, *adv.* almost, nearly (*a "peninsula," from paene + insula, is "almost an island," and the "penultimate" item in a series is "nearly, i.e., next to last," from paene + ultimus*)

pariēs, parietis, *m.* wall (of a room or house) (*parietal*)

pendeō, pendēre, pependī, to hang (down) (*pendant, depend*)

per, *prep. + acc.* through (*perforate, permeate*)

pictūra, pictūrae, *f.* picture, illustration (*picturesque, depict*)

praeterlābor, praeterlābī, praeterlāpsus sum, to glide past, tumble by (*prolapse, collapse*)

prīvātus, prīvāta, prīvātum, private, one's own (*privacy, deprive*); Cicero uses this word for a ship built for the personal use of the corrupt Sicilian governor Verres

quam, *adv. preceding a superlative adj. or adv.* ___ of all (*e.g., wildest of all*)

quandō, *conj.* at which time, when (*as you might guess, hearing the shared WHEN/QUAN [= KWAN] sounds, "when" and quandō are cognates*)

-que, *conj.* suffixed to a word = **et** (and) before that word

quī, quae, quod, *relative pron.* who, which, that; **quae esset**, which he might eat = to eat (**quod erat demonstrandum**, abbreviated Q.E.D. and used in mathematical proofs, = which was to be demonstrated)

quisquam, quidquam, anyone, anything (*quid pro quo*)

quō, *adv.* where? to the place in which, to where (**quo vadis**, biblical phrase, from John 13:36, and the title of a blockbuster 1950s movie about Neronian Rome)

rēgnō (1), to rule, be king (*interregnum, reign*)

renāvīgō (1), to sail back (*navigation, navy; cf. ēnāvīgō above*)

rēx, rēgis, *m.* king (*from the same root as rēgnō above; regal, tyrannosaurus rex*)

sē: see **sui**

sed, *conj.* but (**sed quis custodiet ipsos custodes** is a well-known caveat from the satirist Juvenal, but who will watch the watchmen themselves?)

semel, *adv.* a single time, once (**semel in annō licet insānīre**, an old proverb meaning it's okay to go crazy once a year!)

sileō, silēre, siluī, to be silent, be still (*silence*)

silva, silvae, *f.* forest (*silvan/sylvan, silviculture = "forestry"*)

sine, *prep. + abl.* without (*sinecure, sine die*)

sōlus, sōla, sōlum, alone, lonely (*solitary, desolate*)

sui, *acc. sē, reflexive pron.* him(self), her(self), it(self) (*suicide, per se*)

sum, esse, fuī, futūrum, to be (*essence, future*)

suus, sua, suum, his own, her own, their own (*sui generis*)

tantopere, *adv.* to such a degree, so (very) (*tantamount*)

tē: see **tū**

terreō, terrēre, terruī, territum, to frighten (*terrify, deter*)

terribilis, terribile, inspiring terror, terrible (*from the same root as terreō above; terrific*)

trāns, *prep.* + *acc.* across (*transit, transoceanic*)

trānslātus, trānslāta, trānslātum (*from trānsferō*), translated (*translation*)

tū, *acc. tē*, you (**Et tū, Brūte?**—*Caesar's supposed words to Brutus, when he saw him among his assassins on the Ides of March*)

tum, *conj.* then

turba, turbae, *f.* disorder, riot, rumpus (*turbulence, disturbance*. *There IS a Latin word rumpus, but it refers to a vine root! The nouns tURBa and "RUmPus" are nice enough equivalents, as both are disyllabic and share that gruffly assonant, TURBUlent URB/RUP sound—my wife Alice thought so, and I believe Mr. Sendak might have approved too!*)

ubi, *conj.* where (*ubiquitous; and the silly Latin student jingle, semper ubi sub ibi, always where/wear underwear/where!*)

ultrā, *prep.* + *acc.* beyond, more than (*ultrasound, ultraviolet*)

unguis, unguis, *m.* (finger-/toe-)nail, claw (*ungual*)

ūnus, ūna, ūnum, one (*unit, unify*)

valefaciō, valefacere, valefēci, valefactum, to say goodbye (*valedictorian*); **valefactō**, *idiom*, (having said) goodbye

veniō, venīre, vēni, ventum, to come (*venture, advent*)

vestis, vestis, *f.* garment, costume, clothing (*vest, vestment*)

vītis, vītis, *f.* grapevine, vine (*viticulture, vitis vinifera = the common grapevine*)

volvō, volvere, voluī, volūtum, to turn, roll (*volute, revolve*)