

# Stressful Sorting

Latin words are pronounced with stress, or emphasis, on one of their syllables. This is true in most languages, including English. To hear the stress, say the word 'Latin' out loud. You say 'La-tin', with the stress on the first syllable. Try putting the stress on 'tin' instead and you'll notice it sounds wrong! (If you're not sure what a syllable is, try clapping the rhythm of a word - 'La-tin' has two claps, or syllables; 'em-pe-ror' has three.)

## Activity

Miles the Roman soldier is stressed! He has been ordered to sort a sack of words but he's stuck on the syllables - can you help him work out which ones should have the emphasis?



### Documentum

Sort the words according to which syllable is stressed. The stress can be in one of three places:

#### First Syllable

- If the word has two syllables, the stress is on the first syllable, e.g. **campus** (field).

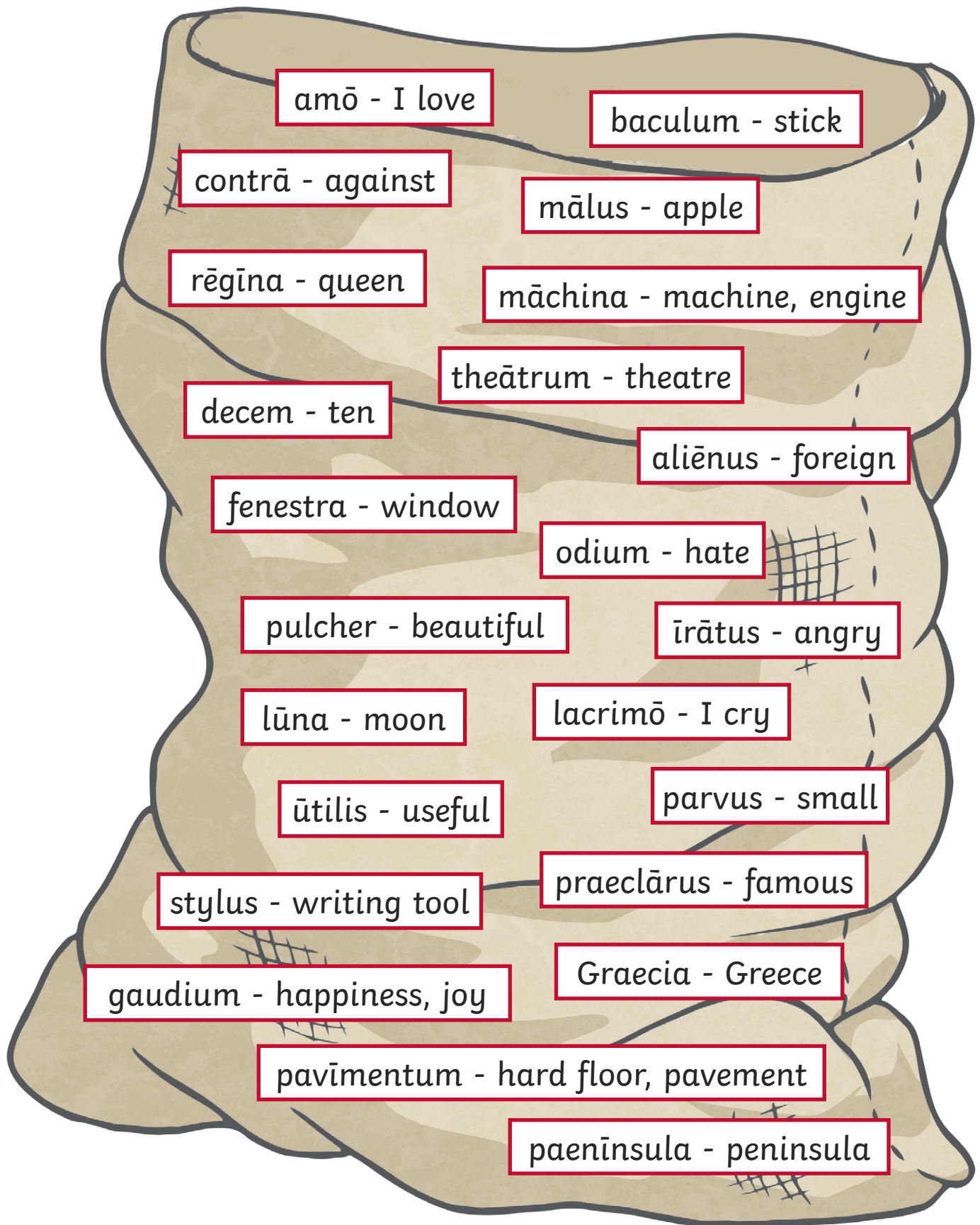
#### Second-to-Last (Penultimate) Syllable

- If the second-to-last syllable is a long vowel, marked by a macron, it is stressed, e.g. amīcus (friend), pronounced a-**mee**-cuss.
- If the second-to-last syllable is a short vowel followed by two consonants, it is stressed, e.g. elephantus (elephant), pronounced el-e-**p(h)an**-tus. [Note: 'ph' in Latin is pronounced more like 'p' with a breath in it, as if it were followed by a separate 'h'.]

#### Third-to-Last Syllable

- All other words with three syllables or more, e.g. aedificium (building), pronounced eye-di-**fi**-kee-um.

Miles the Roman soldier is stressed! He has been ordered to sort a sack of words but he's stuck on the syllables - can you help him work out which ones should have the emphasis?





First Syllable Stressed  
e.g. **campus**

Penultimate Syllable Stressed  
e.g. amīcus, ele**phantus**

Third-to-Last Syllable Stressed  
e.g. aedif**icium**

# Answers

## First Syllable Stressed

e.g. **campus**

amō - I love

contrā - against

mālus - apple

decem - ten

parvus - small

lūna - moon

stylus - writing tool

pulcher - beautiful

## Penultimate Syllable Stressed

e.g. amīcus, **elephantus**

aliēnus - foreign

īrātus - angry

rēgīna - queen

praeclārus - famous

theātrum - theatre

pavīmentum - hard floor, pavement

fenestra - window

## Third-to-Last Syllable Stressed

e.g. aed**ific**ium

baculum - stick

odium - hate

lacrimō - I cry

ūtilis - useful

Graecia - Greece

gaudium - happiness, joy

māchina - machine, engine

paenīnsula - peninsula