

THE LATIN RAP

Don Barrett

Now heah's a little song, and it's all about Latin.

Latin is the lingo that the Romans spoke of old.
They overran the world, you know, 'cos they were big and bold.

Now every Latin lesson is an English lesson too
'Cos heaps of English words are born from Latin, yes, it's true.
Compare our tongue with Latin. That throws light upon our ways
Of speaking, writing, thinking.

Yeah, it helps us through the maze
Of English grammar, adjectives, conjunctions, verbs and nouns
And all the other stuff that causes lots and lots of frowns.

Latin counts a lot in science, medicine and law,
And Latin has a whopping tribe of children, that's for sure:
Italian, French and Portuguese, Romanian, Catalan,
Dalmatian, Spanish – all these come from Latin, get it, man?

It's still the official language of the Vatican in Rome,
And, if you know your Latin, well, you'll feel as if you're home.
You'll work their ATMs with ease, there's really nothing to it.
Just study Latin, that's the stuff, you'll never ever rue it.

Yeah!

(Honorary Research Associate Professor Don Barrett was for many years a lecturer in Classics and Ancient History and at one point, he served as the Executive Dean of Arts at UQ. He has also taught Latin for a number of years at Brisbane Girls Grammar School.)