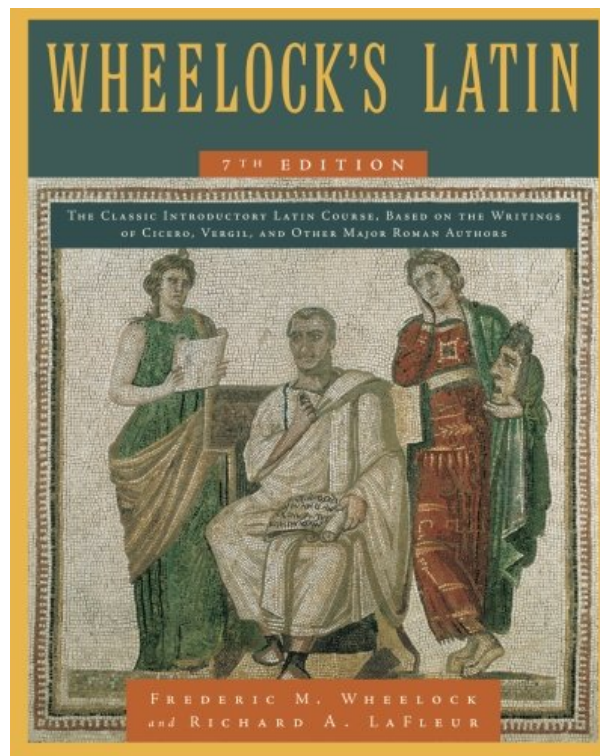
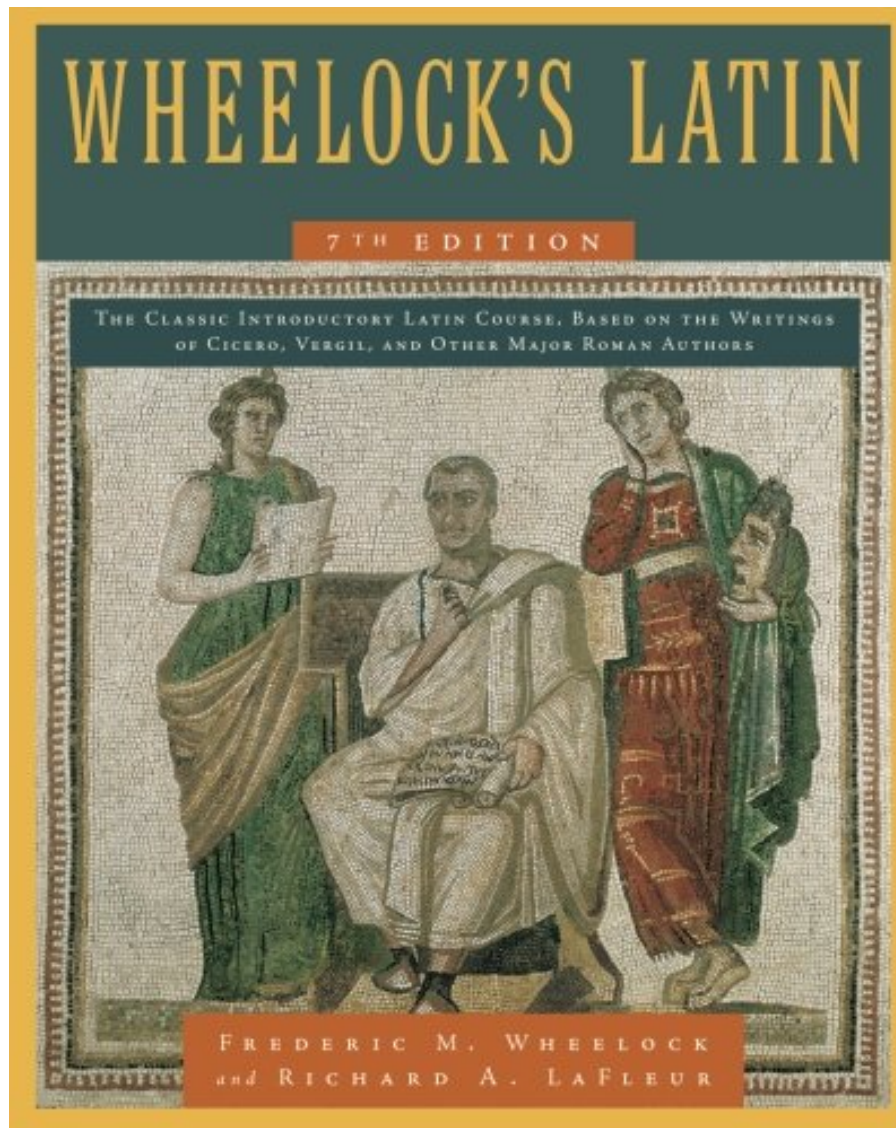


# WHEELOCK'S LATIN 7TH EDITION (THE WHEELOCK'S LATIN SERIES) BY RICHARD A. LAFLEUR



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#### Most helpful customer reviews

184 of 185 people found the following review helpful.

An even more attractive edition of Wheelock ... supplementary readings still required!

By Michael R., "I, Demens"

Wheelock is an excellent textbook in many ways, and this new edition makes it more attractive than ever (load of new photos, comprehension questions to accompany the readings, etc.) As before, the presentation of the grammar is clear and well-organized, and there are lots of great ancillaries to help you get through the book. By far its biggest draw-back, however, has not been ameliorated: the lack of reading passages of any significant length. This means that the course, while teaching the grammar and syntax quite nicely, does not develop proficiency in reading Latin as much as it should. Students who finish Wheelock often have great difficulty making the transition to reading actual Latin texts (if the assignments are of any significant length). To avoid this, a student learning from Wheelock (or really any traditional "grammar-translation" method) should supplement his or her studies with extended reading passages as soon as possible (certainly from the latter half of Wheelock to the end).

It isn't necessarily easy to find a decent amount of reading material suited to this purpose, but it seems to be getting easier: there has been something of an explosion in this genre in recent years. One choice for more significant supplementary readings might be *War with Hannibal: Authentic Latin Prose for the Beginning Student*. It presents a considerable amount of a real Latin (enough to get you acquainted with reading Latin prose, yet not so much that you can't finish the book), and includes helpful notes geared toward the beginning student. Of course there's also the beautiful new reader by Prof. LaFleur, *Scribblers, Sculptors, and Scribes: A Companion to Wheelock's Latin and Other Introductory Textbooks*. Another possibility -- if

you are brave -- is Augustus' Res Gestae. Res Gestae Divi Augusti (Greek Commentaries Series) is quite inexpensive (though the notes could be a bit more thorough for the beginning student). You could also try reading some of the graded passages in Reading Latin: Text (say starting with the adapted Cicero about half way through the book). I myself am not crazy about 38 Latin Stories Designed to Accompany Frederic M. Wheelock's Latin (Latin Edition) (the Latin -- even from the latter half of the book -- feels too Anglicized). Many people like it though, and the main point is to read!

In any case, this lovely new edition of Wheelock notwithstanding, you really *\*must\** supplement the textbook with as much reading as possible. It really is the only way to become a fluent reader (and feel prepared to some degree when you finish your textbook and begin to read real Latin texts). Exercises and discrete sentences are fine, but they are no substitute for reading, reading, reading!

108 of 113 people found the following review helpful.

Don't Get The Kindle Version

By Samantha M. Toffolo

The textbook seems to be, so far, comprehensible and well-written, but I would not recommend the kindle edition. The charts, diagrams and other inserts are completely illegible on my kindle. For the price, you should definitely stick to the paperback version.

185 of 204 people found the following review helpful.

New Edition Is Too Cumbersome and Too Much

By M. Morrison

As a university and private Latin teacher who has used Wheelock for many years, I have to admit to being somewhat disappointed with the new Seventh Edition (2011). My basic complaint is that it is too cumbersome and too much.

The original Wheelock's Latin, published by Barnes & Noble, had a little over 200 pages. The Seventh Edition (2011) has almost 600 pages! Moreover, the physical size of the book has been greatly increased, from a large paperback (13 cm wide by 20.5 cm wide by 2 cm thick) to a workbook size (18.5 cm wide by 23 cm high by 3.5 cm thick). Starting with the Fifth Edition (1995), the new editor, Richard LaFleur, and the new publisher, HarperCollins, seem to have forgotten Callimachus's classical aphorism: "mega biblion, mega kakon," a big book is a big evil!

No longer can one attempt to carry this book like a somewhat-oversized paperback. The new material, particularly the extra continuous classical Latin passages, supplementing Wheelock's traditional 40 chapters is mostly useful, but if the basic content was to be expanded, the latter half of the book should have been reserved for a second, separate volume. The idea that one book can fit all needs is not practical.

It is obvious that the Seventh Edition has increased "white space": large margins and wide space between lines. However, I have never known a student who uses the margins for notes. The end result for the Seventh Edition is an overly cumbersome book. The size of the book could have been reduced, and the typeface, which is something like an eye-straining 10 points, could have been increased to at least 11 points.

The Seventh Edition includes additional exercises and continuous passages, and LaFleur admits in a preface that there are now so many that not all of them can be assigned. So, what's the point? A more cumbersome, more expensive book? Economy, selecting the best examples, would have been preferable. Again, LaFleur seems to have forgotten another classical aphorism, "ou polla, alla poly," not quantity, but quality.

Particularly inappropriate is the inclusion in each of the forty chapters of Latin graffiti. This is entirely out of place in a basic Latin course, when students are struggling to understand basic concepts of subject and verb



and parts of speech. The inclusion of graffiti is just confusing scattershot.

If a student can overcome the deficiencies of the Seventh Edition, there is much good still left in the basic Wheelock. This book remains probably the best single volume still, but it could have been made better by being left basically intact with only a light editorial touch. Frederic Wheelock seemed to understand exactly what students needed; that is what has made his book a classic of Latin instruction. LaFleur doesn't seem to have that same insight. Latin does not need to be "updated." Its principles are immemorial. For individual study, one might be well advised to look on used book sites for editions earlier than the Fifth.

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