

Syllabification and Dactylic Hexameter

A syllable contains one vowel or diphthong (*ae, au, eu, oe, ui*)

Division of syllables:

before a single consonant:	V C V
between two consonants:	V C C V
before the last of 3+ consonants:	V C C C V
between two (non-diphthong) vowels:	V V

Note:

- *qu-* counts as one consonant
- *x* counts as a double consonant (*ks*)
- *i* can be a consonant (pronounced as *y*), as in *iānua* or *Iuppiter*.
- *consonant clusters* where the second consonant is *l* or *r* stay together (e.g. *gr, cl*)--do not divide between them

Elision, or “Disappearing vowels”

When one word ends in a vowel and the next word begins in a vowel, the final vowel of the first words elides or disappears (blends in with the second)

When one word ends in (*am, em, im, om, um*) and the next word begins with a vowel, the final (*am, em, im, om, um*) disappears (blends in with the following vowel)

Syllable length: Long (¯) or Short (ˇ)

A syllable is long if:

- a) it contains a long vowel or diphthong
- b) it contains a short vowel followed by two or more consonants (even if the consonants are in the next syllable)

Otherwise, the syllable is short (i.e. it has a short vowel without 2 or more consonants after it)

Dactylic Hexameter

Six feet per line

Each foot is either a dactyl (¯ ˇ ˇ) or a spondee (¯ ¯).

The fifth foot is always a dactyl (¯ ˇ ˇ).

The sixth foot is always treated as a spondee (¯ ¯).

nec posse Ītaliā Teucrōrum āvertēre rēgem