

Exercise Six: Latinate

Historically, English has two principle streams: Latinate (via Norman French) and Anglo-Saxon (Old English).

Latinate words are often multi-syllabic, dry and have simpler substitutes:

Latinate vs. Anglo-Saxon Words

Latinate	Anglo-Saxon
Canine	Dog
Domicile	House

For historical reasons, Latinate is commonly used in government, law and higher education. Many argue it is used to intimidate, disempower, obfuscate and make the speaker feel important.

For fun, try to translate the following Latinate back into everyday expressions.

1. Scintillate, scintillate, asteroid diminutive.

2. Members of an avian species with identical plumage will congregate.

3. It is futile to become lachrymose over precipitately departed lacteal fluids.

4. The stylus is more potent than the claymore.

5. It is fruitless to indoctrinate a superannuated canine with innovative manoeuvres.

Takeaways/answers on next page.

Exercise Six Takeaways

Answers:

1. Twinkle, twinkle, little star
2. Birds of a feather flock together
3. No use crying over spilled milk
4. The pen is mightier than the sword
5. You can't teach an old dog new tricks