

## Tria nomina



Typical Roman names for citizens of the late Republic had three parts (the "*tria nomina*"). Example: *Gaius Iulius Caesar* where:

- *Gaius* is a *praenomen* ("given name", plural *praenomina*),
- *Iulius* is a *nomen* ("*gens* or clan name", plural *nomina*), and
- *Caesar* is a *cognomen* ("family name within a *gens*", plural *cognomina*).

Some names had no *cognomen*, but in other cases a second *cognomen*, (called an *agnomen*), was added. Female names could follow similar conventions, with a few differences. Additional elements such as tribal affiliation and "filiation" (parentage), were also sometimes used.

After reading through the following instructions, write your carefully thought-out name here and show it to the election official (me).

Mihi nomen est:

praenomen

nomen

cognomen

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## ***Praenomen***

A *praenomen*, the first part of a [Roman name](#), is a personal name which distinguishes an individual from other members of the same family. The *praenomen* is not normally used on its own: normally only close relatives or very close friends call each other by their *praenomen*. There are only a small number of *praenomina* in ordinary use, please pick one of these. (see table below)

### **List of Standard *Praenomina***

These are the standard *praenomina*,  
from most common to least common.

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<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Male Form</b>	<b>Female Form</b>
C.	Gaius	Gaia
L.	Lucius	Lucia
M.	Marcus	Marca
P.	Publius	Publia
Q.	Quintus	Quinta
T.	Titus	Tita
Ti.	Tiberius	Tiberia
Sex.	Sextus	Sexta
A.	Aulus	Aula
D.	Decimus	Decima
Cn.	Gnaeus	Gnaea
Sp.	Spurius	Spuria
M'.	Manius	Mania
Ser.	Servius	Servia
Ap.	Appius	Appia
N.	Numerius	Numeria
V.	Vibius	Vibia

## ***Nomen***

A *nomen* indicates which *gens* a Roman belongs to. A *gens* is a loose collection of families sharing the same *nomen*. It is the middle part of the *tria nomina*, i.e., the three-part Roman name. In ancient times a new citizen would join an existing *gens*, so please pick one of the following;

Acilius	Furius	Pontius
Aebutius	Gabinius	Popillius
Aelius	Galerius	Porcius
Aemilius	Geganius	Postumius
Albius	Gellius	Quinctilius
Amatius	Geminus	Quinctius
Annaeus	Genucius	Rubellius
Anneius	Gratius	Rufius
Annius	Herennius	Rutilius
Antonius	Hirtius	Sallustius
Arrius	Horatius	Salonius
Artorius	Hortensius	Salvius
Asinius	Hostilius	Scribonius
Atilius	Iulius	Seius
Atius	Iunius	Sempronius
Aurelius	Iuventius	Sentius
Autronius	Laelius	Sergius
Caecilius	Lartius	Sertorius
Caedicius	Licinius	Servilius
Caelius	Livius	Sextius
Calidius	Lucilius	Sicinius
Calpurnius	Lucretius	Suetonius
Cassius	Manlius	Sulpicius
Claudius	Marcus	Tarpeius
Cloelius	Marius	Tarquitius
Cocceius	Memmius	Terentius
Cominius	Menenius	Titinius
Cornelius	Minicius	Titurius
Coruncanus	Minius	Tuccius
Curiatius	Minucius	Tullius
Curius	Modius	Ulpus
Curtius	Mucius	Valerius
Decius	Naevius	Vedius
Didius	Nautius	Velleius
Domitius	Numerius	Vergilius
Duilius	Numicius	Verginius
Durmius	Octavius	Vibius
Equitius	Ovidius	Villius
Fabius	Papirius	Vipsanius
Fabricius	Petronius	Vitellius
Fannius	Pinarius	Vitruvius
Flavius	Pompeius	Volumnius
Fulvius	Pompilius	

## **Cognomen**

A *cognomen* is a family name which would be shared by a group of blood relatives. *Cognomina* often, but not always, referred to a person's appearance or other characteristics. It was also common to have a *cognomen* referring to a place of birth, a job, or some other thing which distinguished the person (usually an ancestor) who first bore that *cognomen*. Often it can be insulting or comical in nature like Cicero= "chickpea" for an ancestor of Cicero's whose nose looked like a chickpea.

### Latinizing your own name

Often when a foreigner became a Roman citizen in ancient times he would keep his old name as a *cognomen*, adjusting it to make it easier for Latin-speakers to say and giving it a Latin ending. If you choose this option, you can use either your first name or your surname. An example would be Robert -> Robertus.

Here is a list of common Roman *cognomina*:

<b>Male Form</b>	<b>Female Form</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Used especially by</b>
Aculeo	Aculeo		Prickly, unfriendly	
Agricola	Agricola	<b>OVERUSED</b>	Farmer	
Agrippa	Agrippa	<b>OVERUSED</b>	Born feet first	Gens Menenia
Ahala	Ahala		Armpit	Gens Servilia
Ahenobarbus	Ahenobarba		With a red beard	Gens Domitia
Albinus	Albina		Pale, white	Gens Postumia
Albus	Alba		White or fair-skinned	Gens Postumia
Ambustus	Ambusta	SUGGESTED	Burnt, scalded	Gens Fabia
Annalis	Annalis		Relating to years	Gens Villia
Aquila	Aquila	<b>OVERUSED</b>	Eagle	
Aquilinus	Aquilina	<b>OVERUSED</b>	Eagle-like	
Arvina	Arvina		Fat, lard	Gens Cornelia
Asellio	Asellio		Keeper of donkeys	Gens Sempronia
Asina	Asina		Female donkey	Gens Cornelia
Atellus	Atella		Dark-haired or dark skinned	

Avitus	Avita		Grandfatherly	
Balbus	Balba	SUGGESTED	Stutterer	Gentes Acilia, Cornelia, Lucilia, Naevia, Octavia
Barba	Barba		A beard	
Barbatus	Barbata	<b>OVERUSED</b>	Bearded	Gentes Cornelia, Horatia, Quinctia
Bassus	Bassa		Plump	
Bestia	Bestia		Like an animal	Gens Calpurnia
Bibaculus	Bibacula	SUGGESTED	Drunkard	Gentes Furia, Sextia
Bibulus	Bibula	SUGGESTED	Drunkard	Gentes Calpurnia, Publicia
Blaesus	Blaesa	SUGGESTED	Someone who mispronounces words, slurs his speech, stammers, or lisps	Gens Sempronia
Brochus	Broccha	SUGGESTED	Toothy	
Brutus	Bruta		Stupid, dull-witted	Gens Iunia
Bubulcus	Bubulca	SUGGESTED	Cattle-driver	Gens Iunia
Bucco	Bucco	SUGGESTED	Fool, dolt	
Bulbus	Bulba	SUGGESTED	Bulb, onion	Gens Atilia
Buteo	Buteo		Buzzard	Gens Fabia
Caecus	Caeca		Blind	Gens Claudia
Caepio	Caepio		Onion-seller	Gens Servilia
Caesar	Caesar	<b>DISCOURAGED</b>	From archaic praenomen Caesar, perhaps meaning "hairy"	Gens Iulia
Calidus	Calida		Hot-headed, rash	Gens Coelia
Calvinus	Calvina		From cognomen Calvus	Gentes Domitia, Veturia

Calvus	Calva	SUGGESTED	Bald	
Camillus	Camilla		A child who helps during sacrifices	Gens Furia
Caninus	Canina	<b>OVERUSED</b>	Dog-like	Gens Acilia
Canus	Cana		Golden-haired or grey-haired	
Capito	Capito	SUGGESTED	Big-headed	Gens Ateia
Carbo	Carbo		Charcoal	Gens Papirii
Catilina	Catilina			Gens Sergia
Cato	Cato	<b>DISCOURAGED</b>	Shrewd, prudent	Gentes Hostilia, Porcia
Catulus	Catula		Puppy, whelp	Gens Lutatia
Celer	Celeris		Quick	
Celsus	Celsa		Tall	Gens Papia
Cethegus	Cethega			Gens Cornelia
Cicero	Cicero	<b>DISCOURAGED</b>	Chick pea	Gens Tullia
Cicurinus	Cicurina		Mild, gentle	Gens Veturia
Cilo	Cilo	SUGGESTED	Large forehead or large lips	Gens Flaminia
Cincinnatus	Cincinnata		Curly-haired	Gens Quinctia
Cinna	Cinna			Gens Cornelia
Cordus	Corde		Born late	
Cornicen	Cornicen		Military bugler	
Cornutus	Cornuta		Horned	Gens Caecilia, Sulpicia
Corvinus	Corvina		Crow-like	Gens Valeria
Corvus	Corva	<b>OVERUSED</b>	Crow	Gens Valeria
Cossus	Cossa		From archaic praenomen Cossus	Gens Cornelia

Costa	Costa		A rib	Gens Pedania
Cotta	Cotta			Gens Aurelia
Crassipes	Crassipes	SUGGESTED	Club-footed	Gens Furia
Crassus	Crassa	<b>OVERUSED</b>	Fat	Gentes Claudia, Licinia, Otacilia, Veturia
Crispinus	Crispina		Curly-haired	
Crispus	Crispa		Curly-haired	Gentes Sallustia, Vibia
Culleo	Culleo	SUGGESTED	Leather sack for carrying liquid	Gens Terentia
Curio	Curio	SUGGESTED	Priest of a Curia	Gens Scribonia
Cursor	Cursor		Runner, courier	Gens Papiria
Curvus	Curva		Stooping, bent	Gens Fulvia
Dentatus	Dentata	SUGGESTED	Toothy	
Denter	Dentra	SUGGESTED	Toothy	Gens Caecilia
Dento	Dento	SUGGESTED	Toothy	
Dives	Dives		Rich, wealthy	Gens Licinia
Dolabella	Dolabella		Hatchet	Gens Cornelia
Dorsuo	Dorsuo	SUGGESTED	Large back	Gens Fabia
Drusus	Drusa			Gens Livia
Figulus	Figula	SUGGESTED	Potter	
Fimbria	Fimbria		Edge of clothing, fringes	Gens Flavia
Flaccus	Flacca	SUGGESTED	Floppy ears	Gentes Aviania, Fulvia, Valeria
Flavus	Flava		Blonde-haired	Gens Decimia
Florus	Flora		Light-coloured or blooming	Gens Aquilia

Fronto	Fronto	SUGGESTED	Prominent forehead	
Fullo	Fullo	SUGGESTED	A fuller or launderer	Gens Apustia
Fusus	Fusa		From archaic praenomen Fusus	Gens Furia
Galeo	Galeo		Helmet	
Gemellus	Gemella		A twin	Gentes Servilia, Veturia
Glabrio	Glabrio		A relative of Glaber	Gens Acilia
Gracchus	Graccha			Gens Sempronia
Gurges	Gurges		Greedy, prodigal	Gens Fabia
Habitus	Habita		In good physical condition	Gens Cluentia
Helva	Helva	SUGGESTED	Dun-colored hair	Gens Aebutia
Imperiosus	Imperiosa	<b>DISCOURAGED</b>	Domineering, dictatorial	Gens Manlia
Iullus	Iulla		From archaic praenomen Iullus	Gens Iulia
Labeo	Labeo		Prominent lips	Gentes Antistia, Atinia, Fabia
Lactuca	Lactuca		Lettuce	Gens Valeria
Laenas	Laenas		A woolly cloak	Gens Popillia
Lanatus	Lanata		Wearing wool	Gens Menenia
Laevinus	Laevina			
Laterensis	Laterensis		Person from the hill-side	Gens Luventia
Lentulus	Lentula		A bit slow	Gens Cornelia
Lepidus	Lepida	<b>OVERUSED</b>	Charming, amusing	Gens Aemilia
Libo	Libo	SUGGESTED		Gens Marcia, Scribonia
Licinus	Licina	SUGGESTED	Spiky- or bristly-haired	Gens Mamilia



Longus	Longa	SUGGESTED	Tall	Gentes Sempronia, Sulpicia
Lucullus	Luculla		From lucus (grove) or Lucius (praenomen)	Gens Licinia
Lupus	Lupa	<b>OVERUSED</b>	Wolf	Gens Rutilia
Lurco	Lurco	SUGGESTED	Gluttonous, greedy	
Macer	Macra	SUGGESTED	Thin	Gens Licinia
Macula	Macula	SUGGESTED	A spot or blemish	
Malleolus	Malleola		Hammer	Gens Publicia
Mamercus	Mamerca		From rare praenomen Mamercus	Gens Aemilia
Marcellus	Marcella	<b>OVERUSED</b>	From praenomen Marcus	Gens Claudia
Maro	Maro	SUGGESTED		Gens Vergilia
Merenda	Merenda	SUGGESTED	Light afternoon meal	Gentes Antonia, Cornelia
Mergus	Merga	SUGGESTED	Sea-gull	
Merula	Merula		Blackbird	Gens Cornelia
Messalla	Messalla			Gens Valeria
Metellus	Metella	<b>OVERUSED</b>	Army follower	Gens Caecilia
Murena	Murena		Eel	Gens Licinia
Mus	Mus	SUGGESTED	Mouse or rat	Gens Decia
Musca	Musca	SUGGESTED	Fly	Gens Sempronia
Nasica	Nasica		Big-nosed	Gens Sempronia
Naso	Naso	SUGGESTED	Big-nosed	Gens Ovidia
Natta	Natta	SUGGESTED	An artisan	Gens Pinaria
Nepos	Nepos		Grandchild	Gens Caecilia

Nero	Nero		From rare praenomen Nero ("strong")	Gens Claudia
Nerva	Nerva		Vigorous	Gens Cocceia, Licinia
Niger	Nigra	SUGGESTED	Black-skinned or black-haired	
Novellus	Novella		New, new-fangled	Gens Gavilia
Ocella	Ocella	SUGGESTED	Small-eyed	Gens Livia
Pacilus	Pacila	SUGGESTED	From archaic praenomen Pacilus	Gens Furia
Paetus	Paeta	SUGGESTED	Squinty or blinking	Gens Aelia
Pansa	Pansa	SUGGESTED	Splay-footed	Gens Vibia
Papus	Papa	SUGGESTED	From rare praenomen Papus	Gens Aemilia
Paterculus	Patercula	SUGGESTED	Little father	Gens Sulpicia
Paullus	Paulla		Small	Gens Aemilia
Pavo	Pavo		Peacock	
Pera	Pera	SUGGESTED	Shoulder-bag	Gens Iunia
Pictor	Pictrix		Painter	Gens Fabia
Piso	Piso		Mortar	Gens Calpurnia
Plancus	Planca		Flat-footed	Gens Munatia
Plautus	Plauta	SUGGESTED	Flat-footed	
Poplicola	Poplicola		Friend of the people	Gens Valeria
Postumus	Postuma		Born after the father's death	Gens Curtia
Potitus	Potita		Probably derived from an archaic praenomen	Gens Valeria
Praeconinus	Praeconina	SUGGESTED	A relative of a herald	

Praetextatus	Praetextata		Young (wearing the toga praetexta)	Gens Sulpicia
Priscus	Prisca		Very ancient	
Proculus	Procula		From rare praenomen Proculus, perhaps meaning "born during father's absence"	Gens Plautia
Publicola	Publicola		Variant of Poplicola	Gens Valeria
Pulcher	Pulchra		Attractive	Gens Claudia
Pullus	Pulla	SUGGESTED	Child	
Pulvillus	Pulvilla	SUGGESTED	Small cushion	Gens Horatia
Purpureo	Purpureo	SUGGESTED	Wearing purple or with a purplish complexion	
Quadratus	Quadrata		Stocky, squarely built	
Ralla	Ralla	SUGGESTED	A tunic of fine fabric	Gens Marcia
Regillus	Regilla		Prince	Gens Aemilia
Regulus	Regula	<b>OVERUSED</b>	Prince	Gens Atilia
Rufus	Rufa		Reddish, Ginger-haired	
Ruga	Ruga	SUGGESTED	Wrinkly	
Rullus	Rulla	SUGGESTED	Uncultivated, boorish	Gens Servilia
Rutilus	Rutila		Reddish-gold hair	
Salinator	Salinatrix		Salt-harvester	Gens Livia
Saturninus	Saturnina		Dedicated to Saturnus	
Scaeva	Scaeva		Left-handed	Gens Iunia, Marcia
Scaevola	Scaevola		Left-handed	Gens Mucia
Scapula	Scapula	SUGGESTED	Shoulder-blade	Gens Quinctia

Scaurus	Scaura		Lame, swollen-ankled	Gentes Aemilia, Aurelia
Scipio	Scipio	<b>DISCOURAGED</b>	Rod, staff	Gens Cornelii
Scrofa	Scrofa	SUGGESTED	Sow	Gens Tremelia
Seneca	Seneca		Elderly	Gens Annaea
Severus	Severa	<b>OVERUSED</b>	Strict, severe	
Silanus	Silana		Nose, water-spout	Gens Iunia
Silo	Silo	SUGGESTED	Snub-nosed	Gens Sergia
Silus	Sila	SUGGESTED	Snub-nosed	Gens Sergia
Stolo	Stolo	SUGGESTED	Shoot of a plant	Gens Licinia
Strabo	Strabo		Squinty	Gens Titia
Structus	Structa		Possibly derived from an archaic praenomen	Gens Servilia
Sulla	Sulla	<b>DISCOURAGED</b>		Gens Cornelia
Sura	Sura	SUGGESTED	Calf of the leg	
Taurus	Taura		Bull	
Triarius	Triaria	<b>OVERUSED</b>	A type of soldier	Gens Valeria
Trigeminus	Trigemina		A triplet	Gens Curiatia
Trio	Trio	SUGGESTED	One of the seven stars of the Plough / Big Dipper	Gens {{{2}}}
Tubero	Tubero	SUGGESTED	Having a tumour or swelling	Gens Aelia, Iulia
Tubertus	Tuberta	SUGGESTED	Having a tumour or swelling	Gens Postumia
Tubulus	Tubula	SUGGESTED	Little tube	Gens Hostilia
Tuditanus	Tuditana	SUGGESTED	Mallet	Gens Sempronia
Tullus	Tulla		From rare praenomen Tullus	Gens Volcatia
Turdus	Turda	SUGGESTED	Thrush	Gens Papiria

Varro	Varro	Block-head	Gens Terentia
Varus	Vara	Bow-legged	Gentes Atilia, Licinia, Quinctilia
Vatia	Vatia	Knock-kneed	Gens Servilia
Verres	Verres	Pig	Gens Cornelia
Vespillo	Vespillo	Person employed to bury people too poor for a funeral	Gens <a href="#">Lucretia</a>
Vetus	Vetus	Old	Gens Antistia
Vitulus	Vitula	Calf or young cow	Gentes Mamilia, Pomponia
Volusus	Volusa	From rare praenomen Volusus	Gens Valeria

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