

Conundra

by

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The conundra I have developed are riddles with a pun for the answer. As presented here, they play on the sounds of words between Latin and English creating a playful correlation between the two languages. The word that is filled into the English sentence is a Latin word, which merely sounds like the correct English response. I have used these for years at the end of vocabulary quizzes for fun and sometimes a clue to the meaning of the word. Students love them and help make up new ones for me.

CONUNDRAS

Ecce Romani IIA

Ch. 28:

At the garage sale we hope to _____ lot of junk.

We hurry from the hen house before the chicken _____.

Ch. 29:

A _____ what a fish uses to propel itself.

The _____ where the sun sets.

Ch. 30:

_____ used a good deal of *force*, but couldn't dislodge the stone.

He liked to have a fruity tasting drink so he asked for a cherry _____.

Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote *Uncle _____'s Cabin*.

He had a chip on his shoulder and always thought, "Someone has it _____."

The unironed clothes in the laundry basket cried out, "_____."

Ch. 31:

Since he wanted everyone to _____ him, he dyed his hair purple.

After getting in the dinghy, he asked "_____ to?"

While eating a picnic in the *pasture*, a cow walked _____.

Ch. 32:

A _____ what you need to bake your *bread*.

Hesitantly the crowd shouted, "_____ " when the Matador approached Ferdinand.

We wanted him to _____ in the cart.

Farmer John told me that I still _____ money for the *eggs*.

Mom *commanded* us to _____ rag to wipe our mess.

_____ students brought complaints about homework to the principal.

Ch. 33:

Titus asked guests at Cornelius's dinner to _____ the *raisin-wine*.

Cornelius' guests sat down to *eat* at _____ clock in the evening.

The *grape* asked the asparagus, "Are _____ fruit eater?"

When I tripped on the sidewalk, I *cut* my knee and _____ badly.

Ch. 34:

Since we were in the *way*, the semi truck almost _____ right down.

We had to *allow* the host to _____ at our table.

All the confusing road signs _____ up.

Since he couldn't *give* the answer, he said "I _____."

Ch. 35:

I'm not sure, but I think that either _____ Tom is afraid of the dark.

The painters said "Do you think the paint fumes will _____?"

Ch. 36:

My grandma just moved from the old farmhouse into a recently-built _____.

"Please _____ from hitting your sister!" mother demanded.

Ch. 37:

Either he didn't feel _____ or he was pretending to be sick.

A plow is *useful* when _____ field to plant crops in it.

Ch. 38:

I will _____ map of the *earth* in half.

We can't *allow* that other car to _____ on the highway!

As we left port, someone called out "_____."

Ch. 39:

When Winnie the Pooh's donkey-friend asked him if he wanted more honey, Pooh responded "_____! Your honey is just to die for!"

The math students thought that what they were learning wasn't very *important*, and soon they lost _____.

The newlyweds couldn't decide between a honeymoon mountain resort _____ cottage on the *shore*.

Ch. 40:

You are *really* not allowed to _____ hat in the chapel.

She is *accustomed* to doing that, _____ her keeping trying.

Since he didn't show up, do you want to _____ *with* us?

Ch. 41-42:

Abraham Lincoln is said to have proclaimed, "I never _____s."

When the *waves* came up, we went _____.

When asked the *secret*, she started to _____ up.

Ecce Romani IIB

Ch. 43:

Was it _____ or Hobbes that dreamed up the dinosaurs?

"_____ you do?" The hillbilly asked.

Ch. 44:

The *thief* stole a valuable _____.

Do you want to work in the _____ the classroom?

Ch. 45:

They were lost and didn't know _____(to)_____.

Even though the detector was _____ive, it couldn't find the evidence.

Although he was in love, his shyness didn't allow him to _____.

My little brother is a pain in the _____.

Ch. 46:

Winnie the bear entered the classroom, and _____ the students how to get honey from a bee's nest.

Ch. 47:

After the hot dog roast, he asked if we *preferred* more, or just a marsh _____.

Ch. 48:

He has *so many* books to carry, he bought a _____ bag.

Ch. 49:

Dagwood in the comic strips has a wife named _____.

Although there was little room to *spare* for his car in the garage, he was able to _____.

We didn't allow his appearance to _____, we listened intently to his story.

A _____ what you need to catch the baseball.

Ch. 50:

At the end of the trading on Wall Street, he counted his _____ and losses.

Since it was getting loose, he _____ tighter.

CONUNDRRA

Answers

Ecce Romani IIA

- Ch. 28: sella, pexus
- Ch. 29: fines, vestis
- Ch. 30: vi, incola, tam, infirmi, oppressus
- Ch. 31: notus, vero, pastus
- Ch. 32: panis, oleum, pullus, ovum, iussa, allata
- Ch. 33: passum, edo, uva, scindit
- Ch. 34: modus, situs, mixtus, dono
- Ch. 35: timor, affectus
- Ch. 36: condo, sis
- Ch. 37: vel, utile
- Ch. 38: terra, passus, navigo
- Ch. 39: morior, interest, ora
- Ch. 40: vera, solet, cum
- Ch. 41-42: telae, unda, clam

Ecce Romani IIB

- Ch. 43: calvum, haud
- Ch. 44: fur, labor
- Ch. 45: virgo, sensit, expressit, nec
- Ch. 46: putat
- Ch. 47: malo
- Ch. 48: tot
- Ch. 49: blande, parcit, claudus, mitis
- Ch. 50: gens, taedet