

FIRING INSULTS: ROMAN BULLETS AND THE IMPERATIVE

TEACHER'S NOTES

To support:

KS3 Students in their study of Latin language, e.g.:

- GCSE Latin (9-1) J282 (OCR) Unit 5d – Imperatives
- GCSE Latin (9-1) J282 (OCR) Unit 2c – Roman Army
- WJEC Latin Level 1 Unit 9511 and 9514 – Imperatives
- WJEC Latin Level 1 Unit 9512 – Roman Army

This topic may follow:

- AshLI – How to Train Your Roman, Part 1: The Imperative
- AshLI – How to Train Your Roman, Part 2: Don't Do That!

Exercise 3:

Before giving your class 5 minutes to learn their orders, show them the action which accompanies each one. You can adapt these to suit the space available, and your students.

Marching can be on the spot. The “tortoise” formation requires those at the front to hold their imaginary shields (or textbooks) forwards, those in the middle to hold them above their heads, and those around the edges to hold them to the side. You may want to practise this before the game begins.

The order *animus attendite* is useful if students are getting over-excited.

Pronunciation Guide:

destringite! -de-STRING-gitteh

recondite! - re-CONDY-teh

pila iacite! - peela YAKY-teh

procedite! - pro-KEDY-teh

consistite! - con-SISTY-teh

animus attendite! – animus a-TENDY-teh

scuta tollite! - scoota toh-LEE-teh

vallate! – val-ARR-teh

ad tergum vertite! – add tergoom ver-TEE-teh

testudinem facite! – tesTOO-dinem FARKY-teh

We do not have secure evidence for the orders used by real Roman soldiers, but these imperatives are, at least, good Latin guesses. For a full list of the orders used by modern Roman Army Re-enactors, try the Drill Manual of the Roman Military Research Society:

<http://www.romanarmy.net/pdf/Members%20Handbook%20%28Part%206%29-Drill%20Manual.pdf>