

Cracking codes: Reading Roman tomb stones

Roman tomb stones are packed with abbreviations.

Spot these codes on tomb stones:

D.M. (Dis Manibus)

= To the gods below

F (Filius/Filia)

= Son/daughter

Vix. Ann. (Vixit Annos)

= lived for ... years

S.T.T.L. (Sit Tibi Terra Levis)

= May the earth lie lightly on you

B.M (Bene Merenti)

= Well deserving

F (Fecit)

= Made this

H.S.E (Hic Situs/Sita Est)

= is buried here

V.A.P.M (vixit annos plus minus)

= Lived more or less ... years

Can you spot which abbreviation might be confusing? You can usually work out which is which through context.

Other things to look out for:

Roman Numerals

(especially I V X and L)

Dies

= Days

Menses

= Months

Sibi et Suis

= For himself/herself and his/her family

Interpuncts – Little dots, triangles or other shapes in the middle of a line that separate words