



## Easy Latin for English Speakers

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### Abstract

How the project was born:

I am the responsible of the Liceo linguistico, a new born course of the Liceo Scientifico-Linguistico "Galileo Galilei" in Civitavecchia (Rm). Here a subject is taught in a foreign language starting from the third year. This is the well-known CLIL, a co-operation between the students and the teachers, who are often working together (specific subject and language teacher). So the foreign language is at the same time a subject and the means of communication used to reach another aim, that is understand the content of another subject. [W. Littlewood, "Communicative Language Teaching", Cambridge University Press].

Students always find Latin very difficult, especially if taught in a traditional way, so the module proposed was created to increase the students' interest and creativity, make this subject pleasant and interesting, [S. Bassnett-McGuire, "Translation studies", Methuen]

#### FIRST STEP

The plan of the project was elaborated by me (English language teacher) for a group of students in the second year of Liceo Linguistico. They have been studying English for at least five years and Latin for two years.

After an introduction of the project, the students were moderately enthusiastic: the module proposed was about the gladiators, their life, the aspects linked to their condition (analysis of the ancient Roman social classes, building of the amphitheatres).

What was new was the role of an association, "I gladiatori", whose members wore faithful reproduction of the original Roman clothes and used weapons which were incredibly similar to the true ones, simulating the gladiators' fights.

Before the show, I gave the students a series of tasks. They had to: take photos and a film of the show, write notes of the explanations the speaker of the association gave them, prepare questions to ask, then write a report about the experience for the following week. [M. Finocchiaro, "Teaching learners of various ability levels", ELTJ, vol.33, n°1]

#### SECOND STEP

The results were very good: all the pupils made a detailed report, many took pictures and one had a camcorder and made a short film. There was also an oral assessment, good for all students, in some cases exceptionally good.

#### CONCLUSION

The following step for the students was the creation of a computer work with the use of the pictures taken during the show, some posters, a small dictionary of the most important words and the translation of a bilingual questionnaire.

#### RESULTS

All the students agreed about the results of this experience: it was really "easy Latin for English speakers"!