

HEXAMETERS

1 2 3 4 5 6
- ~ / - ~ / - ~ / - ~ / - ~ / _ _
- - / - - / - - / - - /

A long syllable = a **long vowel** or a **vowel followed by two consonants** (even if they are in the next word, or one of them is)

A short syllable = a **short vowel followed by another vowel or only one consonant**

NOTES

- ▶ **A vowel at the end of a word is elided** before a word starting with a vowel or *H*. This also applies to **words ending in -M**. This final syllable, which was only lightly pronounced if at all, **is ignored in the scansion of the line**.
- ▶ **X** and **Z** count as **two** consonants
- ▶ **Diphthongs (ae, au, oe, eu)** count as **long vowels**
- ▶ **B, C, D, F, G, P,** or **T** followed by **R** or **L** can count as **one or two** consonants

KEY ENDINGS

-a *Short* : Nominative Singular Feminine
 Neuter Plurals

Long : Ablative Singular Feminine
 Imperative Singular

-is *Short* : Genitive Singular(3)
 Nominative Singular(3) e.g. *civis*

Long : Dative and Ablative Plural(1/2)

-as/-es/-os are generally long

-i /-o /-u are generally long

EXAMPLE:

multaque praeterea variarum monstra ferarum:

Centauri in foribus stabulant, Scyllaeque bifformes,

et centumgeminus Briareus, ac belua Lernae

horrendum stridens, flammisque armata Chimaera,

Gorgones Harpyiaequae et forma tricornis umbrarum.

corripit hic subita trepidus formidine ferrum

Aeneas, strictamque aciem venientibus offert,

et, ni docta comes tenues sine corpore vitas

admoneat volitare cava sub imagine formae,

inruat, et frustra ferro diverberet umbras.

ille autem: "neque te Phoebi cortina fefellit,

dux Anchisiade, nec me deus aequore mersit.

namque gubernaculum multa vi forte revulsum,

cui datus haerebam custos cursusque regebam,

praecipitans traxi mecum. maria aspera iuro

non ullum pro me tantum cepisse timorem,

quam tua ne, spoliata armis, excussa magistro,

deficeret tantis navis surgentibus undis.