

WHEN IN ROME, MAKE A JOKE

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Some readers of Word Ways may be old enough to recall Fractured French: Jeanne d'Arc rendered as "no light in the toilet" and Honore de Balzac as "no hitting below the belt." Foreign languages are now much in decline and most people may not even get the joke in *un deux trois quatre cinq* "one of the three kittens drowned." Latin, however, used to be the foreign language and has left a lot of phrases scattered around in English. So I think there may be readers who can guess what Latin phrases are jokingly referred to by the "translations" below. A sample would be "Ira is in a panic in his shorts" from *Ira furor brevis est*. Give it a try, for most of these are a bit easier than that one. Nonetheless, you will still need your wits, or wit, about you.

- 1 dead letter
- 2 dirty book
- 3 church in ruins
- 4 stupid former vice-president
- 5 out-of-fashion coat
- 6 low insult
- 7 in pawn
- 8 crazy low prices
- 9 no mint in the salad
- 10 no steam bath for women
- 11 Italian local airline
- 12 Italian car wash
- 13 American car rental shortage
- 14 trigonometric template
- 15 Alzheimer's in the family