

## Longs and Shorts

Vowels can be long or short by nature.

ă <i>idea</i>	ā <i>father</i>
ĕ <i>net</i>	ē <i>date</i>
ĭ <i>sit</i>	ī <i>machine</i>
ŏ <i>obey</i>	ō <i>holy</i>
ŭ <i>foot</i>	ū <i>boot</i>

Diphthongs: *ae, ei, oe, ou, au, ui.*

- 1) A vowel before another vowel or *h* is short (*vi-a; ni-hil*)
- 2) Diphthongs are long, including vowels derived from diphthongs (*aedes, foedus, excludo, from excludo*).
- 3) A vowel formed from a contraction is long (*nīl* from *nihil*).
- 4) A vowel before *ns, nf, gn* is long (*contāns, īnfero, māgnus*).
- 5) A vowel before *nd* and *nt* is short (*amant*).

\*\*\*\* "A syllable containing a short vowel followed by two consonants or a double consonant is said to be *long by position*, but is pronounced *short: est, terra, saxum*" (A&G 11b).

\*\*\*\* "In final syllables ending with a consonant, and containing a short vowel, the quantity in verse is determined by the following word: if this begins with a vowel the final consonant is joined to it in pronunciation; if it begins with a consonant the syllable is long by position" (A&G 11c note 2).