

*veni vidi vici.*¹

Bible Words: *vita*



Vita is a first declension noun which you already have in your notebook. Look it up if you have forgotten what it means. Like most first declension nouns it is feminine. Like *sapientia*, which we looked at last week, it describes an abstract concept. We all know what “life” is but we cannot see it, touch it, taste it or hear it although we might say we can perceive its *effects* through our senses.

Vita is an important word in the Bible, especially when the word *aeterna* is added to it. Read <https://www.gotquestions.org/what-is-eternal-life.html> and notice in passing the importance of grammar in understanding what the Bible says on this topic.

ego veni ut vitam habeant et abundantius habeant John 10:10b.

Et you know and *abundantius* you can guess. The only thing you will not know from just looking at it is that it is the comparative² form of the adjective so remove the *ius* and replace it with “ly” and put the word “more” in front of it. *Ego* and *ut* are very useful little words which are in the IGCSE vocabulary and can be added to your indexed notebook. *Ego* means “I” and *ut* means “that” or “so that.” *Habeant* is a form of the verb *habere* which you will encounter later: it means “they might have.” For *veni* (which you will also meet later) see the very famous Latin quotation which heads this page. You might be able to translate the whole of this sentence with this information. Check your answer by looking it up in your Bible.

Saul et Ionathan amabiles et decori in vita sua in morte quoque non sunt divisi aquilis velociores leonibus fortiores 2 Samuel 1:23

This text comes from David's lament on the death of his friend Jonathan and Jonathan's father, David's persecutor, King Saul. There are a few words here that you will know already. You can also guess *divisi* and *leonibus*. You can add *quoque* to your notebook: it is a useful small word (although unlike most Latin words beginning *qu* it does not begin with “wh” in English) meaning “also” or “as well as.” You might guess *amabiles* if you remove the final letter and shuffle the last four letters of what remains a bit! *Decorum* is related to our words “decorative,” “decorous” and “decorum” – it means “pleasant.” *Velociores* is related to “velocity” and *fortiores* is related to “fortify.”

Exercise:

1. What is the meaning of the Greek word *αιώνιος* (*aiónios*)?
2. When does the Christian's eternal life begin?
3. In the Bible we read of the Tree of Life. Where was it (a) in the beginning and (b) where will it be in the end?

¹ I came, I saw, I conquered. Julius Caesar is reputed to have said this about Britain.

² If you do not know what this is don't worry we will come to it when we learn about Latin adjectives.

³ We will do the personal pronouns in full later on but just learn this one for now.

Answers on the next page.

1. What is the meaning of the Greek word *αιώνιος* (*aiónios*)? Eternal.
2. When does the Christian's eternal life begin? It begins in this earth in the here and now when you become a Christian.
3. In the Bible we read of the Tree of Life. Where was it in the beginning and where will it be in the end? (a) In the Garden of Eden (b) In the New Jerusalem.