

Reading Review

1. What is a "tunic"?

A short sleeve shirt.

2. What is a "toga"?

A large piece of wool arranged in folds. Worn only by male Roman citizens.

3. What is a "stola"?

A full length over tunic worn by a woman.

4. What is a "palla"?

A large rectangular shawl worn by a woman.

5. What is a "salutatio"?

A daily morning reception by a wealthy man at his house for other men who were dependent on his financial support. He was their "patron" and they were his "clients". In return for the patron's financial support the clients supported their patron in whatever way they could, especially with their votes in elections. It is known as the "patron/client relationship" and was a cornerstone of Roman society.

6. What is a "cena"?

The main meal of the day which was eaten in the late afternoon.

7. What is a "mensa"?

A small circular dinner table placed between three couches. (triclinium)

8. How did Caecilius and his family members eat dinner?

They would recline on three couches arranged around a "mensa", leaning on their left elbows and eating with their right hand.

9. Did all people eat in this fashion?

No. Poorer people, slaves and children ate sitting up.

10. Did women eat with men?

Yes. Women dined with men and took an active role in the dinner conversation.

11. Describe the events of a usual day for Caecilius.

He got up at dawn, first put on a tunic, then a toga and then sandals, washed and had a light breakfast of water and bread. He then met his clients at the "salutatio" in the tablinum or atrium. After the salutatio he was accompanied to the forum by his clients where he spent the morning doing business. Then he had a light lunch of meat or fish and fruit. He would then spend the afternoon at the public baths. In the late afternoon he went home to eat dinner.

12. Describe a Roman "cena"?

- The first course was eggs, fish, raw and cooked vegetables.
- The main course consisted of meat dishes (beef, pork, mutton and poultry) with various sauces and vegetables.
- Finally the dessert was served consisting of fruit, nuts, cheese and sweet dishes.
- Wine was served throughout the meal.