

SCANNING WORKSHEET — MARTIAL 6.11

BASIC RULES OF SCANNING

A syllable is long if:

- it is **long by nature**, i.e. contains a long vowel or a diphthong
 - long vowels are marked with a macron
 - diphthongs = ae, au, ei, eu, oe (sometimes ui)
- it is **long by position**, i.e. a vowel followed by
 - two or more consonants (even if the consonants are in different words)
 - a double consonant (x = ks; z = sd)

If a syllable is not long, then it is short.

Notable caveats to the above rules:

- a long syllable can often be interchanged with two shorts. This is called *resolution*. In metrical schema, a syllable open to resolution is marked thus: \overline{uu}
- a mute consonant (p, b, t, d, c, g) followed by a liquid (l, m, n, r) does NOT necessarily “make position” (make the preceding syllable long)
- a consonant at the end of a word + “h” at the start of the next word does not make position
- remember that “i” is sometimes a consonant (in*̄*iuria, I*̄*uppiter)
- su-, qu- and gu- before a vowel sound like one consonant : e.g. suavis, quinque

METRICAL PATTERN FOR ELEGIAC COUPLETS

An elegiac couplet consist of a line of dactylic hexameter followed by a line of pentameter.

Hexameter (6 feet)	Foot:	1	2	3	4	5	6											
		—	\overline{uu}		—	\overline{uu}		—	\overline{uu}		—	\overline{uu}		—	uu		—	—
Pentameter (5 Feet)	Foot:		1	2	½	3	4	½										
		—	\overline{uu}		—	\overline{uu}		—		—	\overline{uu}		—	\overline{uu}		—		

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Ut praestem Pyladēn, aliquis mihi praestet Orestēn.

Hoc nōn fit verbīs, Mārcel ut amēris, amā.