
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Marcus the Roman centurion

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Salutem! That's Latin for 'greetings'. That's what I said when I had to register at my place of rest – but the man on reception gave me a very strange look.

How did my journey terminate in this magnificent city I hear you ask? Well Emperor Caesar said I should escape to take my rest as I had been working so hard. So I chose to come here – Londinium – one of the northern outposts of the Roman Empire.

But it isn't what I had expected – no chariots – instead I have to explore the city on these strange red double-decker buses. And for entertainment, people go to a theatre to see something called a 'musical' not slaves being eaten by lions, unfortunately.

I shall go to observe one of these 'musicals' but not before I have absorbed the atmosphere of the city from a strange contraption called The London Eye. But how do I get there? The nice man at the hotel gave me a 'Tube map' but I can't seem to decipher it.

I shall use my feet to walk there – actually not walk but march – and I will enquire for directions. Maybe these people will be able to suggest which musical I go to see tonight – I do hope there's one that involves slaves being cut to pieces.

But please detain yourself. If I am to go to the theatre tonight I need to attire myself smartly - not wear this scruffy old toga. I only have a few pieces of gold and Londinium isn't cheap so I will need to compare prices at a number of shops – and if I have a few nuggets left I might buy Caesar an 'I 'heart' Londinium' T-shirt. He'll love that!

Oh but how am I going to do all of this today? I suppose I've always got tomorrow – after all Rome – I mean Londinium wasn't built in a day!