\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1

You can decode Roman tombstones at the Roman Baths, Bath

\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1\$1

Most Tombstones follow a set pattern, but there are many variations, omissions and additions.

Many words are abbreviated, have letters squashed together (ligatures), or spill over from one line to the next, so the Romans often separated them with dots.

Typical pattern

P.T.O. for fictitious example

D M (Dis Manibus) to the spirits of the departed

NAME – praenomen, nomen, father's name (patronymic) (- F or - FIL), voting tribe, birthplace cognomen (3rd name)

VIXIT ANN (os) he/she lived for ... years

STIP (endiorum): how many years in the army

H F C (Heres Faciendum Curavit) the heir had the stone made *the heir often adds his/her name and relationship*

HSE (Hic Situs/a Est) here he/she lies

List A – Names

- A name ending in "i' followed by F or FIL means the person's son or daughter: it is a *patronymic*.
- Slaves had one name, freedmen had two, and citizens three.
- Freedmen added their ex-master's name to their slave name.

MEN \$\\$\\$\\$\\$\\$\\$\\$\\$\\$\\$\\$\\$\\$\\$\\$

Antigonus

Gaius Calpurnius Receptus

Gaius Tiberinus

Julius Vitalis

Lucius Ulpius Sestius

Lucius Vitellius Tancinus

Magnus

(Magni = of Magnus, or Magnus's)

WOMEN SISISISISISISISISISIS

Calpurnia = female version of Calpurnius. Freedmen and Freedwomen would be given the name of their exmaster when they were freed.

Trifosa – this Greek name means 'Delicious' or 'Gorgeous' – her only name when she was a slave. **Mercatilla** – she is described as 'Liberta' and 'Alumna' Rusonia Aventina – Rusoniae Aventinae – 'TO ..'

List B - Birthplace **********

C / Cives = citizen or tribesman/woman

 $\mathbf{C} \mathbf{R} = \text{Roman citizens}$

Hispanus Cauriensis = of Caurium in Spain

Natione Belga = from the Belgic tribe of Hampshire or possibly northern France

Mediomatricae = of Metz

Nicopoli = from Nicopolis

Sergia Tribu = from the Sergian voting-tribe membership of a voting-tribe meant a person was a Roman citizen with the right to vote in Rome regardless of where they came from

List C - Status, job or army rank ***

ALUMNA = foster-daughter

CONIUNX = wife

F, FIL, FILIA = daughter

F, FIL, FILIUS = son

HERES = heir (but often the heir's name is given)

L, LIB, LIBERTUS / A = freedman / woman (ex-slave)

SACERDOS DEAE SULIS = priest of the goddess Sulis

EMERITUS = veteran, retired soldier

EQ, EQVES = cavalryman

EX COLEGIO FABRICENSIUM ELATUS = funeral organised by the Guild of Armourers

FABRICIEnSIS = armourer

List D – Legion or squadron ♦I♦I♦I♦I♦

LEGIO = Legion **ALA** = Cavalry squadron

Several legions were given honorary names:

LEG II AVGusta = 2nd Augustan The Emperor's

LEG XX Valeria Victrix = 20th Courageous and Victorious – given this name after the Boudican rebellion of 60-61 A.D.

ALA VETTONUM = squadron of Vettones, all members granted Roman citizenship (C.R.) by the Emperor Vespasian, presumably for their part in the invasion of Britain in 43 A.D.

List E – Roman numerals ♦!♦!♦!♦!♦

V = 5	VI = 6	X = 10
XI = 11	XV = 15	XVI = 16
XX = 20	XL = 40	L = 50
LX = 60		

Annus = year Mensis = month Dies = day

Dedication to the Underworld Gods "-is" and "-ibus" endings mean "TO" in Latin	Dis Manibus	To the spirits of the departed
Dead person's name(s): praenomen & nomen	Marcus CURATIus	Marcus Curatius Modestus
(Only Roman citizens had 3 names) List A	TVIMEOU COIUII	
Whose son he was "-i" ending means "OF" or apostrophe S in Latin	Marci Filius	Marcus' son
His voting-tribe List B		
His 3rd name (cognomen)	SERGIA MODESTUS	In the Sergian voting-tribe. (Modestus)
His birthplace List B and his rank in the army List C	TREVERI >	from Trier, a Centurion
The number and name of his Legion or cavalry Regiment List D "-is" ending means "OF" or apostrophe S in Latin.	LEGIONIS XXVV	of the 20th Legion Valeria Victrix 'Courageous & Victorious'
His / her age List E	VIXIT ANNOS XLII	He lived for 42 years
Number of years' army service List E	STIPendiorum XVIIII	19 years of paid army service
Who had the tombstone made	Heres Faciendum Curavit	His heir had the tombstone made
He lies here	Hig Situs Est	Here he lies