

dominium

lordship or absolute  
ownership

domus

a Roman house,  
usually a town house

dromos

passage-like entrance

duovir

magistrate elected for  
life to the local council  
in Pompeii

ecclesiasterion

hall for secret meetings,  
perhaps of initiates in  
the mysteries

eulogia

an inscription recording details of a distinguished man's career

exedra

a semicircular recess or niche in a wall, which projects

fasces

a bundle of rods enclosing an axe and carried by lictors; symbol of imperium

fasti consulares

annual list of consuls

Fetiales

priests who were in charge of the rituals for declaring war and concluding treaties

fides

good faith

fiscus

a provincial chest or  
treasury

flamen

one of the fifteen priests who  
made up the college of  
pontiffs; each flamen was  
assigned to the cult of one  
particular god

foedus

a special treaty defining  
the relations of  
individual communities  
with Rome

forica

a public toilet

frigidarium

a room with cold-  
water pool

fullones

washers and dyers of  
fabrics

fullonicae

laundries

gens (gentes)

clan(s)

gravitas

seriousness about life

haruspex

a priest who inspected the entrails of sacrificial animals, observed the meaning of natural phenomena and prodigies, and interpreted their meaning

hastati

the first line (young men) in the early republican army

horrea

large warehouses

hypocaustum

special channels under the floor of public baths through which steam circulated

imperium

supreme authority, including the right to flog or execute, held by consuls, praetors and dictators

impulvium

a basin in the floor of  
the atrium for  
collecting rainwater

ingenui

free-born Romans

insula

a high-rise apartment  
building

intercessio

the right of a magistrate  
to veto a motion carried  
by another magistrate

interrex

a patrician appointed by the senate  
to exercise provisional authority for  
five days if for some reason there  
was no consuls; the office was held  
only until new consuls were elected