

**The *tria nomina* ("Three Names"):  
The Roman Naming System**

<p style="text-align: center;">the <i>praenomen</i> ("fore-name") (males only) Only these 15 were used, thus, each had a standard abbreviation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">the <i>nomen</i> ("name") (indicating your clan, or <i>gens</i>) There were many clans; the list below includes only the names of some of the more famous ones.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">the <i>cognomen</i> ("after-name") (a nickname, becomes a family name) Again, there were many in use, and more invented all the time; these are some of the more noteworthy.</p>
<p>Appius: Ap. Aulus: A. Caius: C. Cnaeus: Cn. Decimus: D. Lucius: L. Marcus: M. Manius: M'. Numerius: N. Publius: P. Quintus: Q. Servius: Ser. Sextus: Sex. Spurius: Sp. Titus: T. Tiberius: Ti.</p>	<p>Iulius Iunius Claudius Cornelius Tarquinius Tullius Octavius Antonius Ulpus Aurelius Flavius Aemilius Licinius Pompeius</p>	<p>Albinus ("white; pale") Rufus ("ruddy; red-head") Niger ("black; dark-complexioned") Scipio ("walking-stick") Caesar ("hairy") Naso ("big-nosed") Cicero ("garbanzo bean") Paulus ("little; small") Magnus ("great") Maximus ("greatest") Crassus ("thick; dense; solid") Brutus ("heavy; dull; insensible")</p>