

epitaph

inscription on a  
tomb, honouring the  
deceased

equestrian

seated on a horse

extinct

a permanently inactive  
volcano; or one that has  
not erupted in known  
memory

fauces

a narrow hallway

forum

open space in a town,  
surrounded by public buildings;  
the focus of religious,  
administrative, commercial and  
judicial affairs

freedmen

former slaves who had gained their freedom, many of whom were successful in business

fresco

a painting done on the damp plaster of walls

genius

the guardian spirit of a person or place

gilded

covered with a thin layer of gold or gold paint

impluvium

a pool or basin to collect water

inactive

a dormant volcano; one that could resume activity at any time

infant exposure

the practice of leaving babies, usually girls, outside to die of exposure or be taken as slaves

in situ

in the original position

insula

a block of buildings defined by streets on all sides

lares

guardian spirits, of households and crossroads

libation

liquid poured as an offering to gods or spirits of the dead

loggia

an upper porch

lovage

a herb similar in taste to celery

manumission

the act of freeing someone from slavery

mosaic

a floor or wall picture made up of thousands of tiny pieces of coloured stone, tile or glass

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municipium

originally an Italian  
community given a form of  
Roman citizenship, without  
the right to vote until after the  
Social War

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necropolis

a cemetery

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oecus

a family room

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