Draw a line between the manuscript image with the corresponding printed word.

Hints: Medievals abbreviate words in order to write faster and conserve space. If a word looks like it is missing letters, look for an extra stroke or symbol nearby, which will give you a clue as to what is missing. The first word pictured here looks like it ends with a -9. Read the first few letters and then see if you can figure out the -9 stands for.

Another way of abbreviating was to write part of the word “superscriptus” – above the line. This also indicates that part of the word might be missing.

Medieval pens could not write upward strokes. So many of the letters you see are formed with multiple strokes because the pen is lifting off the page. Consequently, some letters look different from the shape you might expect. Always ask yourself – “what else could this shape be?”