

***Cum* Clauses: Temporal and Circumstantial**

In early Latin, the Romans used a conjunction *quom*. This conjunction had various meanings, dependent upon the mood of the verb in its clause, and sometimes dependent upon the context in which the sentence occurred. Unfortunately, this conjunction *quom* came to be spelled *cum* by Caesar's day. It must not be confused with the preposition *cum*, used with the Ablatives of Manner and Accompaniment. Word order rules must be observed to distinguish among these words.

Four different subordinate clauses may begin with the conjunction *cum*. The first two types are explained in Unit XII. They are called *cum* Temporal Clauses and *cum* Circumstantial Clauses.

1. *Cum* Temporal Clauses.

A temporal clause beginning with *cum* must contain an *indicative verb*. This indicative verb names a specific action which allows its clause to answer the question, "When did the main clause verb happen?" Any *cum* clause which contains an indicative verb is a temporal clause.

[*Cum* Caesar occisus est,] multi Romani tristissimi erant.

When Caesar was killed, many Romans were very mournful.

[When were many Romans very sad? At the time Caesar was killed.]

Senatus praemium dabit [*cum* dux fortis se ostendet.]

The senate will give a reward when a strong leader (will) present(s) himself.

[When will the senators give a reward? At the time a strong leader emerges.]

2. *Cum* Circumstantial Clauses. When a general set of circumstances is referred to, rather than a time-specific action, a subjunctive verb is used following the conjunction *cum*. This is because general circumstances were viewed as more vague by the Romans. *Cum* is still translated as *when*.

[*Cum* Caesar praefectus in Gallia esset,] erat pax.

When Caesar was governor in Gaul, there was peace.

[When was there peace? Under the circumstances that Caesar was governor in Gaul.]

NOTA BENE: Caesar was governor in Gaul for nine years!

Sequence of Tense Rule for *Cum* Circumstantial Clauses

The rule is more complex than that used for Purpose and Result Clauses. Note that there are three possible time relationships between the Subjunctive Verb and the main clause verb.

<p><u>Primary Sequence:</u> Main clause verb is Present Indicative Future Indicative Future Perfect Indicative</p>	<p><u>Before MV</u></p> <p>Perfect Subj</p>	<p><u>Same as MV</u></p> <p>Present Subj</p>	<p><u>After MV</u></p> <p>Present Subj</p>
<p><u>Secondary Sequence:</u> Main clause verb is Imperfect Indicative Perfect Indicative Pluperfect Indicative</p>	<p><u>Before MV</u></p> <p>Pluperf Subj</p>	<p><u>Same as MV</u></p> <p>Imperf Subj</p>	<p><u>After MV</u></p> <p>Imperf Subj</p>

Special Notes about Temporal and Circumstantial Clauses

1. In Latin, Temporal Clauses beginning with *cum* contain indicative verbs.
2. The conjunction phrase *cum primum*, “as soon as,” always signifies a Temporal clause.
3. In Latin, Circumstantial Clauses always begin with *cum*, and always contain subjunctive verbs.
4. In English, there are no Circumstantial Clauses. Therefore, when composing from English to Latin, very close attention must be paid to how specific the action in the subordinate clause is; if very specific, treat the clause as *cum* Temporal; if vague or general, treat the clause as *cum* Circumstantial. Look for clues—

That night [*when* they arrived at Rome,] they talked with the leader.

Specific = *cum* Temporal Clause

I advise my friend [*when* I see him.]

Vague (whenever I happen to see him) = *cum*
Circumstantial Clause

***Cum* Causal Clauses**

Several conjunctions can begin Causal Clauses in Latin. A Causal Clause answers the question, “Why was the main clause verb done?” Of these conjunctions, some begin a Causal Clause which is *authoritative*, and contain *indicative verbs*. Some begin a Causal Clause which is *less authoritative*, and they contain *subjunctive verbs*. Theoretically, you will be able to tell how secure Caesar is with his facts, based upon what conjunction he has used to begin his subordinate clause!

Causal Conjunctions:

1. *quod* normally is followed by an indicative verb.

Copiae in proelio victi sunt [*quod* satis cibi non *habebant*.]

The troops were defeated in the battle [*because* they did not have enough (of) food.]

2. *Quia* normally takes the indicative.

Dux urbem dedidit [*quia* hostes extra portas *erant*.]

The general surrendered the city [*because* the enemy were outside the gates.]

3. *Quoniam* normally takes the indicative.

Dux urbem dedidit [*quoniam* hostes extra portas *erant*.]

NOTA BENE: If *quod* or *quia* is followed by a subjunctive verb, it is to be assumed that the information within the Causal Clause is in doubt or turned out to be in error.

Dux urbem dedidit [*quia* hostes extra portas *essent*.]

The general surrendered the city [*because* (he thought) the enemy were outside the gates (but he was mistaken).]

4. *Cum*, when it means “because” or “since,” always is followed by a subjunctive verb.

Dux urbem dedidit [*cum* hostes extra portas *essent*.]

The general surrendered the city [*since* the enemy were outside the gates.]

Decima Legio victa est [*cum* dux *captus* *esset*.]

The Tenth Legion was defeated [*because* its general *had been* captured.]

Sequence of Tense Rule for *Cum* Causal Clauses

The rule is more complex than that used for Purpose and Result Clauses. Note that there are three possible time relationships between the Subjunctive Verb and the main clause verb.

<u>Primary Sequence:</u>	<u>Before MV</u>	<u>Same as MV</u>	<u>After MV</u>
Main clause verb is Present Indicative			
Future Indicative	Perfect Subj	Present Subj	Present Subj
Future Perfect Indicative			
<u>Secondary Sequence:</u>	<u>Before MV</u>	<u>Same as MV</u>	<u>After MV</u>
Main clause verb is Imperfect Indicative			
Perfect Indicative	Pluperf Subj	Imperf Subj	Imperf Subj
Pluperfect Indicative			

Special Notes about Causal Clauses

1. Whether or not a Latin Causal Clause contains a subjunctive mood verb, always translate the verb as though it were *indicative*.
2. Note that the word “since,” as used in English to denote a temporal clause, did not exist in Latin; “since” was always *causal*.
3. Cum Causal Clauses are often difficult to identify in Latin, because they may share the same formula with *cum* Circumstantial and *cum* Concessive Clauses. The best guide to determine whether a *cum* clause is causal is context.

Cum Concessive Clauses

Concessive Clauses always begin with “although” or “even if,” and they represent the first part of a contradictory statement. The subordinating conjunction “although” is an attempt to reconcile the contradiction. Sometimes, the coordinating conjunction “nevertheless” balances the “although.”

The sun is shining.

It is raining.

Although the sun is shining,

it is *nevertheless* raining.

Four Latin conjunctions can mean “although” or “even if.”

1. The conjunction *etsi* always takes the *indicative* mood.
2. The conjunction *quamquam* always takes the *indicative* mood.
3. The conjunction *quamvis* takes the *subjunctive* mood. It is found only in the Primary Sequence, and therefore will be rare.
4. The conjunction *cum* always takes the *subjunctive* mood.

***Etsi* copiae hostium erant majores, Romani *tamen* eas vicerunt.**

***Although* the forces of the enemy were greater, the Romans *nevertheless* defeated them.**

***Quamquam* copiae hostium erant majores, Romani *tamen* eas vicerunt.**

***Quamvis* copiae hostium sint majores, Romani *tamen* eas vincent.**

***Although* the forces of the enemy are greater, the Romans *nevertheless* will defeat them.**

***Cum* copiae hostium essent majores, Romani *tamen* eas vicerunt.**

***Although* the forces of the enemy were greater, the Romans *nevertheless* defeated them.**

Sequence of Tense Rule for *Cum* Concessive Clauses

The rule is more complex than that used for Purpose and Result Clauses. Note that there are three possible time relationships between the Subjunctive Verb and the main clause verb.

<p><u>Primary Sequence:</u> Main clause verb is Present Indicative Future Indicative Future Perfect Indicative</p>	<p><u>Before MV</u></p> <p>Perfect Subj</p>	<p><u>Same as MV</u></p> <p>Present Subj</p>	<p><u>After MV</u></p> <p>Present Subj</p>
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Special Notes about *cum* Concessive Clauses

- 1. *Cum* Concessive Clauses can be very difficult to distinguish from *cum* Circumstantial and *cum* Causal Clauses, because they may share the same formula. If you are fortunate, a *cum* Concessive Clause will be followed by a main clause containing *tamen* (nevertheless). If you are not fortunate, then you will need to look for whether the two clauses represent an apparent contradiction.**
- 2. There is no guarantee that *cum* Concessive will be followed by *tamen*!**

The Dative of Possession

Often the verb *habeo, habere* has been used to express the subject's possession of someone(s) or something(s), as

Puer multam virtutem *habet*.

The boy has much courage.

In true Latin idiom, however, when the only purpose for a statement was to establish that someone possessed someone or something, a simple construction using the state-of-being verb and a Dative Case noun was used. This construction is called the *Dative of Possession*.

In this construction, the thing owned becomes the Nominative Subject; the person owning becomes the Dative of Possession; and the verb “have” or “possess” becomes a form of the verb “be.”

Est multa virtus puero.

There is much courage to the boy.

[Idiomatic translation: The boy has much courage.]

Special Notes about the Dative of Possession

1. Become comfortable with, and always use, the idiomatic translation for the Dative of Possession.
2. If the Romans didn't always use *habeo*, *habere* to state simple ownership, what did they use *habeo* for? This familiar verb was often used instead as an important idiomatic expression meaning “think” or “intend:”

Helvetii *in animo habebant* per Provinciam iter facere.

The Swiss had it in mind [intended] to march through the Roman Province.