Purpose Clauses

Purpose clauses are subordinate clauses which answer the question, “Why?” or “For what purpose?” was the main clause verb done. Identifying conjunctions which begin purpose clauses are in order that, in order to, so as to, so that, for the purpose of… In English, we most commonly express purpose simply by using the formula to + verb.

Caesar is going to Gaul in order that he may defeat the enemies.
Caesar is going to Gaul in order to defeat the enemies.
Caesar is going to Gaul so as to defeat the enemies.
Caesar is going to Gaul so that he may defeat the enemies.
Caesar is going to Gaul to defeat the enemies.

NOTA BENE: The formula to + verb defines an infinitive. Thus, we often use an infinitive to express the idea of purpose. In Latin, however, an infinitive cannot be used to express purpose. Instead, the appropriate Latin conjoining word is followed by a subjunctive verb.
There are three types of Purpose Clause:

1. Adverbial Purpose: the conjunction *ut* is followed by a subjunctive verb:

   Puer currit *ut fugiat*.
   The boy is running *in order that he may escape*.

   When a negative purpose is expressed, the conjunction *ne* is used instead of *ut*:

   Puer currit *ne capiatur*.
   The boy is running *so as not to be captured*.

2. Relative Clause of Purpose: When the subject of the subjunctive verb has been chosen, sent, appointed, or elected, the purpose clause begins with the nominative of the Relative Pronoun, followed by the subjunctive verb:

   Dux *mittit nuntium qui hostes inveniat*.
   The general is sending a messenger *who may find the enemy*.
   (The general is sending a messenger *to find the enemy*.)
3. Substantive Purpose Clause (Indirect Command): When the subject of the subjunctive verb has been ordered, asked, begged, commanded, advised, or persuaded to do the action, ut or ne followed by a subjunctive verb is used:

Caesar militibus **mandat ut oppidum circumdant.**

Caesar **is commanding** the soldiers *in order that they may surround the town.*

(Caesar **is commanding** the soldiers *to surround the town.*)

Caesar **rogat legatos ne hostibus locum dicant.**

Caesar **is asking** the ambassadors *in order that they may not tell the enemy his position.*

(Caesar **is asking** the ambassadors *not to tell the enemy his position.*)

*NOTA BENE:* The following verbs commonly govern Substantive Purpose Clauses: *mando, impero* (command); *rogo, oro, peto, quaero* (ask, beg); *persuadeo* (persuade); *moneo* (advise, warn); *hortor* (encourage); *postulo* (demand). Note that *jubeo* (order) does not govern a substantive purpose clause, but rather a subject accusative and objective infinitive construction.
Result Clauses

Result Clauses answer the question, “What is the outcome of the main verb’s action?” In English, a Result Clause is indicated by the words *so* or *such* in the main clause, and the conjunction *that*. The verb in a Result Clause therefore states an *actual action*, even though that verb must be in the *subjunctive mood*. The reason for this is idiomatic:

The man fought *so* bravely [*that* he defeated his foe.]

This sentence, to a Roman, meant

The man fought *so* bravely [*that* (naturally) he *would* defeat his foe.]
There are two types of Result Clause.

1. Adverbial Result Clauses begin with the Latin conjunction *ut* (that), and contain a subjunctive verb, either present or imperfect. In the main clause preceding *ut*, there will appear a special adverb or adjective:

- tam (adv.) = so (modifies adjective or adverb)
- sic (adv.) = so, in such a way (modifies a verb)
- ita (adv.) = so, in such a way (modifies a verb)

Aeneas tam fortiter pugnat ut hostem superet.

Aeneas is fighting *so bravely that* he *will defeat* his foe.

- talis, -e (adj.) = such
- tantus, -a, -um (adj.) = so great
- tot (indecl. adj.) = so many

Arma hostium sunt talia ut nostri vincantur.

The enemies’ weapons are *such that* our men *will be defeated*. 
2. Substantive Result Clauses are introduced by a special verb in the main clause:

- accidit (impersonal) = it happens…
- evenit (impersonal) = it happens…
- fit (impersonal) = it happens…
- necesse est (impersonal) = it is necessary…
- efficio (personal) = (someone) brings it about…

The Result Clause begins with *ut*, and contains a present or imperfect subjunctive.

*Accidit ut Caesar ad oppidum alienum *appropinquet*.

*It happens that Caesar is approaching* the barbarian town.

*Dux effecit ut captivi ad provinciam suam *reverterentur*.

*The general brought it about that* the prisoners *were returned* to their province.
The Sequence of Tenses Rule for Purpose and Result Clauses

Just like infinitives and participles, subjunctive verbs in subordinate clauses show, by their tense, when their action occurs relative to the time of the main clause verb. The Sequence of Tenses Rule for Purpose and Result Clauses is simple.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Sequence:</th>
<th>Subordinate Clause verb is</th>
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<tr>
<td>Main Clause verb is</td>
<td>Present Subjunctive</td>
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<td>Present Indicative</td>
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<th>Secondary Sequence:</th>
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<td>Main Clause verb is</td>
<td>Imperfect Subjunctive</td>
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<td>Pluperfect Indicative</td>
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Special Notes about Purpose and Result Clauses

1. When beginning a Purpose Clause, *ut* means “in order that…,” “for the purpose of…,” etc.; when beginning a Result Clause, *ut* can only mean “that…,” “with the result that…”

2. Be very careful to make the following distinction: In English, *so that* signifies *purpose*, when *so* and *that* are side by side. When *so* and *that* are separated by one or more words, they signify *result*:

*Purpose*: He ran quickly *so that* he would surpass the enemy.

*Result*: He ran *so quickly that* he surpassed the enemy.

3. The action of the subjunctive verb in a Purpose Clause or in a Result Clause is assumed to happen *at the same time as* the main clause verb.
Quiz #5: Synopsis of regular verbs in the Present and Imperfect Subjunctive.