

The Subjunctive Mood in Relative Clauses

Relative Clause of Purpose (replaces *ut*)

A relative clause in the subjunctive may replace a purpose clause.

Caesar lēgātōs mīsīt ut haec dīcerent. → *Caesar lēgātōs mīsīt quī haec dīcerent.*
Caesar sent ambassadors to say these things.

Relative Clause of Characteristic (compare to potential subjunctive)

The subjunctive in a relative clause of characteristic indicates a general type. (The indicative in a relative clause, learned earlier, indicates a specific individual or individuals.)

cīvis quī rēx fierī velit optimō cuique est inimīcus.

The (sort of) citizen who wants (lit. would want) to become king is the enemy of all the best men.

relative clause of characteristic frequent after these phrases:

quis est quī ...?

quid est quod ...?

nēmō est quī ...

nihil est quod ...

sunt quī ...

sōlus est quī ...

or after *quī ... nōn* → *quīn* to express or imply negation

nēmō est quīn haec intellegat. There is no one who does not (lit. "of the sort who would not") understand these things.

Relative Clause of Result (replaces *ut*)

A relative clause in the subjunctive may replace a result clause.

Quis est tam stultus ut haec dīcat? → *Quis est tam stultus quī haec dīcat?*

Who is so foolish that he says (lit. that he would, as to say) these things?

quī ... nōn → *quīn* to express or imply negation

nēmō est tam fortis quīn aliquando timeat.

No one is so brave that he does not fear sometimes.

Other Uses:

- A relative clause may replace a cum-clause
- A relative clause may replace the protasis of any condition.
- Inside indirect discourse, relative clauses take the subjunctive if they represent the words of the original speaker (as opposed to the author) in direct speech.
Cicerō dīxit Caesarem, quī rēx fierī voluisset, iūre caesum esse. (subjunctive)
Cicero said that Caesar, who (Cicero said) had wanted to become king, had been justly killed.

Cicerō dīxit Caesarem, quī ā Brūtō occīsus erat, rēgem fierī voluisse. (indicative)
Cicero said that Caesar, who had been killed by Brutus, had wanted to become king.