

Ut Clauses of Purpose, Result and Indirect Command

The expression of purpose, result, and indirect command are distinct:

He died in order that we might live. (Purpose)

It rained so hard that my basement was flooded. (Result)

I requested that he go. (Indirect command).

For each of these constructions, Latin uses a subordinate clause introduced by *ut* with the verb of the subordinate clause in the subjunctive mood.

I. *Ut* Clauses of Purpose:

A Purpose Clause is preceded by *ut* (in order that) + verb in the subjunctive.

Venit ut eam videat. He comes in order that he might see her ("to see her").

a purpose clause answers the question "why?" the action of the main verb is/was done

A negative purpose clause is formed with *ne* (in order that . . . not).

Puella discessit ne videretur. The girl left (in order) that she not be seen.

N.B. In a relative Purpose Clause, *qui*, *quae*, *quod* may replace *ut* when the antecedent of the relative pronoun is expressed.

Viros misit qui hoc facerent. He sent men (who were) to do this.

N.B. When the Purpose clause has a comparative, *ut* is often replaced by *quo*.

Glaadium abiecit quo facilius curreret. He threw away his sword so that he might run more easily.

II. *Ut* Clauses of Result:

A result clause is preceded by *ut* (that, with the result that) + verb in the subjunctive.

A negative result clause is formed with *ut . . . non* (that...not, with the result that...not).

N.B. *Tam* (so, so very), *sic* (so, in such a way), *ita* (so, so very, in such a way), *tantus*, *-a*, *-um* (so large, so great) and the like often precede a Result Clause.

a result clause answers the question "what happened?" as a result of the action of the main verb

Tanta fecit ut urbem servaret. He did such great things that he saved the city.

Tam strenue laborat ut multa perficiat. He works so energetically that he accomplishes many things.

Erant tot aedificia ut omnia videre non possem. There were so many buildings that I could not see them all.

III. *Ut* Clauses of Indirect Command: (a type of Substantive aka Noun Clause)

Sometimes an *ut* clause simply expresses a command, wish, desire, hope, etc., without any strong meaning of purpose or result.

A negative indirect command clause is formed with *ne*.

Mihi persuasit ut venirem. He persuaded me that I come (to come).

Me monuit ne venirem. He warned me that I not come (not to come).

Ab eis petivit ne se vulnerarent. He begged them not to wound him.

an indirect
command is a
clause acting as
the direct object
of a main verb

IV. Negative *Ut* Clauses:

Negative *ut* Clauses use distinctive introducing words. Learn the following:

Negative Purpose

that ... not **ne**

Purpose:

Celeriter cucurrit ne capi posset.

He ran quickly in order that he not be caught.

Negative Result

that ... not **ut ... non**

Result:

Tam celeriter cucurrit ut capi non posset.

He ran so quickly that he could not be caught.

Negative Ind. Command

that ... not **ne**

Indirect

Command:

Eum oravit ne tam celeriter curreret. I

begged him that he not run so fast.

Source: <http://www.thelatinlibrary.com/101/UtClauses.pdf>