

# Grammar: Purpose clauses

## *Overview*

Final clauses express the reason for doing something.

He went to the cupboard in order to get out a shirt.

They are usually marked in Latin by

*ut* + subjunctive for a positive clause

*ne* + subjunctive for a negative clause

The tense of the subjunctive follows rules laid down by the sequence of tenses.

eo ut amicos meos videam (present + present)

puella in horto sedit ut epistolam scriberet (perfect + imperfect)

## *Notes*

to say 'in order that *x* and not *y*' you use *ut ...ne/neve*.

if the subject of the purpose clause is the same as the subject or object of the main clause, *qui, quae, quod* is often used instead of *ut*.

purpose clauses containing the comparative form of an adjective or adverb are usually introduced by *quo*.

Purpose clauses can be used parenthetically in phrases such as *ut ita dicam* - so to say

useful vocab: in order that:

no-one	ne quis
nothing	ne quid
no	ne ullus, a, um
never	ne umquam
nowhere	ne usquam

other ways of expressing purpose:

*ad* + accusative of gerund e.g., *ad pacem petendam*

*causa* + genitive of gerund e.g., *pacis petendae causa*

**supine** *pacem petitum* (only used after verbs of motion,  
*lusum it Maecenas, dormitum ego* (Horace).

### *Examples drawn from the exercises*

The number after each question indicates the exercise from which it has been drawn, so that you can look at the example in context.

1. aditum sermonemque defugiunt, ne quid ex contagione incommodi accipiant; neque his petentibus ius redditur, neque honos ullus communicatur. *Exercise 11*
2. huic uni domino usque seruiamus ut multo mihi maior acriorque ignis mollibus ardet in medullis. *Exercise 8*

### *Examples drawn from Cicero*

1. atque, ut haec ita esse perspicere possitis, exponam vobis Oppianici facinus manifesto compertum atque deprehensum  
*Pro Cluentio XIV.43*
2. interim venit index ad Dinaeam, neque obscurus neque incertus, qui nuntiaret ei, filium eius, M. Aurium, vivere, et in agro Gallico esse in servitute. *Pro Cluentio VII.21*
3. petit Oppianicus, ut sibi nubat, et id magno opere contendit.  
*Pro Cluentio IX.27*
4. reperti sunt duo equites Romani qui te ista cura liberarent et sese illa ipsa nocte Paulo ante lucem me in meo lectulo interfecturos esse pollicerentur. *In Catilinam 1.IV.9*
5. Atque ut intellegatis eis accusatum esse criminibus

Oppianicum ut neque accusator timere neque reus sperare  
debuerit, pauca vobis illius iudicii crimina exponam;

*Pro Cluentio VII.19*

6. Acervatim iam reliqua, iudices, dicam, ut ad ea quae propiora  
huiusce causae et adiunctiora sunt perveniam:

*Pro Cluentio X.30*