

Grammar: Uses of *ut*

Overview

Ut is one of the most frustrating words to translate in Latin, along with 'quam' and 'quod' due to its range of meanings. Students tend to translate it as 'in order to ...' automatically, when this is only one of its possible translations.

Ut + indicative

Ut in purpose clauses

Ut in result clauses

Ut in indirect commands

Ut + *indicative*

When followed by the indicative, *ut* just means 'as'.

e.g. hoc *ut* dixit, Amor sinistra *ut* ante dextra sternuit
approbationem.

**'As she said this, Love sneezed his approval on the left
as before on the right.'**

Ut in *purpose clauses*

Here *ut* means 'in order to ...'. The subsequent verb then goes into the subjunctive according to the sequence of tenses.

The commander went to the city in order to attack it
which in Latin would be:

imperator ad urbem venit ut oppugnaverit.

See the separate page on purpose clauses for more explanation and examples.

Ut in indirect commands

Here *ut* means 'that'. The first part of the clauses will have a marker such as *tam*, *totiens*, *tantus* in it. The verb following the *ut* goes into the subjunctive, following the sequence of tenses.

The commander attacked the city so often that he conquered the inhabitants.

which in Latin would be:

imperator urbem totiens oppugnavit ut incolas superaverit.

See the separate page on result clauses for more explanation and examples.

Ut in result clauses

Here *ut* means 'to ...' when the command is preceded by an indirect speech trigger. The subsequent verb is put into the subjunctive, according to the sequence of tenses.

The commander ordered them to attack the city.

which in Latin would be:

imperator eos imperavit ut urbem oppugnaverit.

See separate page on Indirect Commands for more explanation and examples.