

# Noun clauses with *ut/ne, quominus, quin*

Latin MILC – W4, MT 2012

October 30, 2012

## 1 Verbs of entreaty and prevention

### 1.1 Noun clauses - basic recap

We have already encountered noun clauses in the guise of the a.c.i. and n.c.i.; the basic concept is simple: verbs usually take an accusative as their complement, but some may further take a *whole subordinate clause* as their complement, esp. in the case of verbs of entreaty such as *oro, impero, peto, hortor, etc.*. Whilst in English, such expressions usually show an infinitive (*I asked you to leave me alone*) or a ‘that’-clause (*I prayed that he would finish.*), in Latin they are introduced by *ut* or, if in the negative, *ne*.

(Note that we basically did this last week - final clauses are a subtype of these more independent noun clauses.)

1. *Ut hostem terreret, militibus imperavit, ut clipeos hastis percuterent.*  
In order to terrify the enemy he commanded the soldiers to strike their shields with their spears.
2. *Effecit ne ex urbe exirent.*  
He prevented their leaving the city.
3. I earnestly advise you to read these books carefully.  
*Magno opere te hortor, ut hos libros studiose legas.*

### 1.2 Impersonal verbs

As always, there are a few impersonal verbs that demand the usage of such noun clauses, e.g. *factum est, casu accidit, sequitur, ita fit, fieri potest, etc.* Note that these, strictly speaking, are of course consecutive clauses - but when you encounter them in English this may not be immediately obvious.

4. It happened on that day that the consuls were about to hold a levy.  
*Quo die accidit ut consules delectum habituri essent.*
5. It is possible that someone thinks along the right lines, but is unable to express what he thinks in a refined manner.  
*Fieri potest ut recte quis sentiat et id, quod sentit, polite eloqui non possit.*

A particularly odd and complicated phrase that takes an *ut*-clause is *tantum abest ut*, ‘so far from...’; the first is the subject governing *abest*, the second is a consecutive clause depending on *tantum*.

6. *Tantum abest ut nostra miremur ut nobis non satisfaciat ipse Demosthenes.*  
So far are we from admiring our own works, that Demosthenes himself does not satisfy us.

### 1.3 Exercise

Let’s try and apply last week’s and this week’s topics. Split up in three groups, each of which tackles one of the sentences below; after a few minutes, we’ll put it all together.

7. Thereupon he earnestly implored the bystanders not to obey men who were ready to betray both their allies and themselves in order to avoid incurring a trifling loss.  
*Tum eos qui adstabant oravit atque obsecravit ne eis parent qui et socios suos et se ipsos, ne levissimum caperent ipsi damnum, vellent prodere.*
8. He succeeded at last in persuading the Spaniards that it was quite impossible to leave the city, which was blockaded on all sides by the enemy, unharmed.  
*Effecit tandem ut Hispanis persuaderet nullo modo fieri posse ut ex urbe undique ab hostibus obsessa excederent.*
9. He says that he never asked you to pardon the guilty or condemn the innocent.  
*Negat se umquam abs te petiisse ut nocentibus ignosceres aut innocentes condemnares.*

## 2 Verbs of hindering

### 2.1 *Quominus* and *quin*

We had a look at verbs of fearing last week already, but there is more to be said about the whole matter. *Quominus*, for example, is a good way of putting into Latin expressions of hindering containing a phrase like ‘from doing something’, i.e. the -ing participle.

10. *Naves vento tenebantur quominus in portum redirent.*  
The ships were prevented by the wind from returning into harbour.
11. I will not object to taking you to prison.  
*Non recusabo quominus te in vincula ducam.*

Keep in mind, though, that *quominus* is usually employed after negations, or ‘virtual’ negations (e.g. *vix*, *aegre*, etc).

*Quin*, on the other hand, is **only** found after negatives, but does roughly the same job as *quominus*.

12. *Nec eum umquam adspexit, quin fratricidam compellaret.*  
And she never beheld him without calling him a fratricide.
13. He could scarcely be prevented from throwing stones.  
*Vix inhiberi potuit, quin saxa iaceret.*

Remember, though, that *quin* is also occasionally used as a compounded relative pronoun, i.e. *qui non*.

14. *Nemo est quin intelligat.*  
All the world perceives it. = There is no one who does not perceive it.

### 2.2 Exercise

Now, again, split up into groups and give the following three sentences a go:

15. I never beheld him without imploring him to come to the aid of his oppressed and suffering country ; but I fear that he will never listen to my prayers.  
*Numquam eum aspexi quin obsecrarem ut vexatae afflictaeque patriae subveniret; sed vereor ne preces meas (OR me precantem) numquam sit auditurus.*
16. I cannot refrain from blaming those who were ready to hand over our lives, liberties, rights, and fortunes to our deadliest enemies.  
*Facere non possum quin eos reprehendam qui infensissimis hostibus vitas nostras, immunitates, iura, fortunas permittere volebant.*
17. All the world believes that you did wrong, and I am afraid that it is quite impossible that all man-kind have been of one mind with me in a blunder.  
*Nemo est quin te paccasse credat, et vereor ne nullo modo fieri possit ut omnes homines in errore mecum consenserint.*

### 3 Assignment

#### 3.1 Translate into Latin

1. I will not, said he, allow myself to be the last to greet my king after so heavy a disaster.
2. The jury were at last persuaded that my brother was innocent; they could not be persuaded to acquit him by their verdict, such was their terror of the mob.
3. News has been brought to me in my absence that the city has been taken : it remains (for me) to retake it by the same arts as those by which I have lost it.
4. So far am I from praising and admiring that king, that it seems to me that he has greatly injured not only his own subjects, but the whole human race.
5. So far am I from having said everything, that I could take up the whole of the day in speaking ; but I do not wish to be tedious.
6. He pretends that I was the cause of my countrymen not joining the cause of every patriot.
7. The soldiers could not be restrained from hurling their darts into the midst of the mob.
8. He promises to leave nothing undone to persuade your son not to hurry away from the city to the country.
9. We were within a very little of being all killed, some of us pierced by the enemy's darts, others cut off either by famine or disease.
10. Nothing, he said, had ever prevented him from defending the freedom and privileges of his countrymen.

#### 3.2 Reading & Analysis

For next week, please read as much as possible of ch. 4 of Sallust's *Bellum Catilinae* below; also, please pick two sentences from the text and give a FULL analysis of how they work, including parsing verbal and nominal forms.

Igitur ubi animus ex multis miseriis atque periculis requievit et mihi reliquam aetatem a re publica procul habendam decrevi, non fuit consilium socordia atque desidia bonum otium conterere neque vero agrum colundo aut venando servilibus officiis, intentum aetatem agere; sed, a quo incepto studioque me ambitio mala detinuerat, eodem regressus statui res gestas populi Romani carptim, ut quaeque memoria digna videbantur, perscribere, eo magis, quod mihi a spe, metu, partibus rei publicae animus liber erat. Igitur de Catilinae coniuratione, quam verissime potero, paucis absolvam; nam id facinus in primis ego memorabile existumo sceleris atque periculi novitate. De cuius hominis moribus pauca prius explananda sunt, quam initium narrandi faciam.

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**Please hand in your assignment by Friday 6pm, either by email to [robin.meyer@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk](mailto:robin.meyer@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk), or by pigeon post to Robin Meyer, Wolfson College, Linton Rd.**