

PURPOSE CLAUSES

First a few words on the *sequence of tenses*:

The tenses of the Indicative and Subjunctive moods are classified as either *Primary* or *Secondary* (sometime called *Historic*) as follows:

	<i>Indicative</i>	<i>Subjunctive</i>	
<i>Primary</i>	Present	Present	(action simultaneous with or
	Future	—	subsequent to main verb)
	Present Perfect	Perfect	(action prior to main verb)
	Future Perfect	—	
<i>Secondary</i>	Imperfect	Imperfect	(action simultaneous with or
	Simple Past	—	subsequent to main verb)
	Pluperfect	Pluperfect	(action prior to main verb)

A primary main verb requires a primary subordinate verb (we call this primary sequence). Likewise, a secondary main verb requires a secondary subordinate (secondary sequence). In primary sequence, the *present subjunctive* express actions simultaneous with or subsequent to the main verb; *perfect subjunctive*, actions prior to the main verb. In secondary sequence, the *imperfect subjunctive* express actions simultaneous with or subsequent to the main verb; the *pluperfect subjunctive*, actions prior to the main verb. These relationships are indicated in the above chart.

The subordinating conjunction *ut* or its negative, *ne*, set up (among other things) two general types of subordinate clauses: *Purpose Clauses* (also called *Final Clauses*) and *Result Clauses* (also called *Consecutive Clauses*). A purpose clause expresses the purpose or intention of the action of the main verb (I do *x* so that *y* may/might occur); it does not, however, indicate whether or not that intention was realized. Likewise, a result clause expresses the result of the action of the main verb (I did *x* in such a way that *y* happened); it says nothing of motive, only the result.

A moment's reflection will reveal that the action of the verb in a purpose clause can only occur simultaneous or subsequent to the action of the main verb. Consequently, only the present subjunctive (primary sequence) or imperfect subjunctive (secondary sequence) are used in purpose clauses. It works as such:

I will have done, will do, do or have done *x* in order that *y* may occur in the present subjunctive.

Stilum (stilus, -i: pen) bonum poetae magno *dedi ut* bona *scribat* (pres. act. sub.).
I *have given* a good pen to the great poet so that he *may* write good things.
(Present Perfect, Primary Sequence)

I was doing, did, or had done *x* in order that *y* might occur in the imperfect subjunctive.

Stilum bonum poetae magno *dedi ut* bona *scriberet* (imp. act. sub.).
I *gave* a good pen to the great poet so that he *might* write good things.
(Simple Past, Secondary Sequence)