

Uses of **iam**

1. Origin of **iam**

1.1. “Of uncertain formation” (AG, 215.6)

2. Summary of Use

2.1. **iam** is an adverb and may be translated **now, already, at length, or presently**

2.2. “With negatives, **iam** means **no longer**.” (AG, 322b)

2.3. **iam** may modify any tense.

2.3.1. With the imperfect or pluperfect, **iam** is ingressive, marking the start of past action.

3. Use

3.1. I have already said before: **iam antea dixi**.

3.2. There is no longer room for mercy: **nōn est iam lenitātī locus**.

3.3. This has come to be a practice: **hōc iam erat institūtum**. (ingressive **iam**)

4. **Nunc** versus **iam**

4.1. **Nunc** merely notes the present, the immediate, the pressing.

4.2. **iam** adds “a reference to the previous time through which the present state of affairs has been or will be reached.” (AG, 322b)

4.2.1. **iam** will mark a transition between the previous and present; **nunc** *only* considers the present.

5. Compounds

5.1. **Etiam** (viz. ‘**et iam**’) is an adverb and may be translated **also, even, yes**

5.2. **Etiam** usually *precedes* the verb it modifies, making it more emphatic than **quoque**, which usually *follows*

5.2.1. He acts not only with words, but also with force: **nōn verbīs solum sed etiam vī ēgit**.

5.2.2. Are you well? Yes, indeed I am: **Agis benē? Etiam egō**.

5.3. **Etiam sī** (viz. ‘**etiam sī**’) begins a concessive clause and should be translated **even if**

5.3.1. Even if you have nothing to write, write anyway: **etiamsī quod scribās nōn habēbis, scribitō tamen**.

5.4. **Iamdiū** and **iamdūdum** are adverb and should be translated **for a long time**

5.5. These take **present** verbs in Latin, but **perfect** verbs in English translation.

5.5.1. For a long time I have not know what you were doing: **iam diū ignōrō quid agās**.

5.5.2. I have long been urging you: **tē iam dūdum hortor**.

5.6. Where they take **imperfect** verbs in Latin, **iamdiū** and **iamdūdum** denote “an action continuing in the past but begun at some previous time.” (AG, 471b)

5.6.1. I had been weeping for some time: **iamdūdum flebam**.

The Essential AG: 322b

Famous Phrase: **etiamsī omnēs, egō nōn**: even if all others [abandon you], I will not.
[Jesus to Peter, Matthew 26:33-4]