

Comparative Subordinate Conjunctions

1. Summary of Use

- 1.1. Conjunctions are either coordinate or subordinate
 - 1.1.1. Coordinate conjunctions connect “coordinate or similar constructions” (AG, 223a)
 - 1.1.2. Subordinate conjunctions connect a main clause with the clause it modifies (i.e. subordinates)
- 1.2. **Comparative** subordinate conjunctions are sub-class of subordinate conjunctions imply **both comparison and condition** between the two clauses
- 1.3. Comparative subordinate conjunctions may introduce **indicative** or **subjunctive** clauses, often hinged on the presence of **sī** near the conjunction
 - 1.3.1. **ut, utī, sicut, prout, and praeut** will produce indicative clauses
 - 1.3.2. **velut, velutī** and **ceu** may produce either indicative or subjunctive clauses
 - 1.3.3. **tamquam (tanquam), quasi, ut sī, ac sī** and **velut sī** will produce subjunctive clauses

2. Indicative Exempla

- 2.1. **ut, utī, sicut,** or **velut,** just as, like
 - 2.1.1. **Fātur ut fātur meus pater:** He speaks just as my father speaks.
 - 2.1.2. **Pugnat utī quae nihil āmittere habet:** She fights like one with nothing to lose.
 - 2.1.3. **Ex altā arbore cadunt sicut sidera summō caelō:** they fall from the high tree. like stars from high heaven
- 2.2. **prout** or **praeut** like as, exactly as
 - 2.2.1. these are more precise or emphatic than those at (2.1)
 - 2.2.2. **Fātur prout fātur meus pater:** He speaks *just* like my father speaks.
 - 2.2.3. **Vidēris praeut tuus pater:** You look exactly like your father.
- 2.3. **ceu,** just as, like
 - 2.3.1. a poetic variant of those at (2.1)
 - 2.3.2. **tenuis fugit ceu fūmus in aurās:** Fleeting, he flees as smoke in air.

3. Subjunctive Exempla

- 3.1. **tamquam (tanquam), quasi, ut sī, and velut sī,** as if
 - 3.1.1. He mourns as if Asia were closed: **luget tamquam clausa sit Asia**
 - 3.1.2. He speaks as if he were my father: **fātur quasi meus pater sit.**
 - 3.1.3. She fights as if she had nothing to lose: **pugnat ut sī nihil āmittere habeat.**
 - 3.1.4. They dreaded his cruelty as if he were present: **crūdeelitātem horērent velut sī cōram adesset.**
- 3.2. **ac sī,** exactly as if
 - 3.2.1. this is more emphatic than those at (3.1)
 - 3.2.2. You do exactly as if you had asked me: **similiter facis ac sī mē rogēs.**

Famous Phrase: **si fueris Romae, Romano vivito more; si fueris alibi, vivito sicut ibi**

(if you will be at Rome, live in the Roman custom; if you will be elsewhere, live as those there)

[attributed to St. Ambrose, who received it as advice, this is the very clumsy predecessor do our own ‘when in Rome, do as the Romans do’]