

## Uses of Quam (part 3 of 3)

1. Origin of Quam
  - 1.1. **Quam** is derived from the feminine singular accusative of the interrogative pronoun **quī, quae, quod**
2. Summary of Use
  - 2.1. **Quam** has many and various uses in Latin
  - 2.2. It appears most commonly as the **standard coordinating conjunction** of comparison between two adjectives, adverbs or clauses (part 1)
    - 2.2.1. Two things compared with **quam** will always appear in the same case
    - 2.2.2. There are better and worse (common and less common) ways to compare with **quam**
  - 2.3. The phrases **quam ut, quam quī, quam sī** and **quam** (alone) may also initiate a subjunctive statement (part 2)
    - 2.3.1. These include clauses of **purpose, characteristic** and **comparison**
  - 2.4. The compounds **quamquam** and **quamvīs** are concessive particles, taking either subjunctive or indicative clauses (part 3)
  - 2.5. **Quam** and its compounds have several other functions (part 4)
3. **Tam...Quam**
  - 3.1. The pairing **tam...quam** connects a demonstrative and relative pair of phrases (i.o.) and should be translated **so (as) ... as** with comparative force.
  - 3.2. When used of present characteristics, the relative phrase may take a subjunctive verb
    - 3.2.1. He spoke as often as possible: **tam saepē orātus est quam poterat.**
    - 3.2.2. She eat as much as she might like: **tam multa edit quam velit.**
4. **Quam** with Relative Time
  - 4.1. **Quam** may appear with single adverbs that already offer comparative force: **ante, prius, post, postea, prīdiē, and postrīdiē**
    - 4.1.1. She did not let him go until he gave her a pledge: **nōn ante dīmīsit eum quam fidem dedit.**
    - 4.1.2. There came the third day after he said these things: **post diem tertium quam dixerat vēnit.**
  - 4.2. In this same way, **quam** may appear with the ablative of time
    - 4.2.1. She died within eight months after his death: **octāvō mēse quam eius mortem morīta est.**
  - 4.3. The phrase **quam diū** should be translated **as long as** and takes the indicative.
    - 4.3.1. She spoke as long as she could: **orābat quam diū poterat.**
5. Idiomatic Uses
  - 5.1. **Quam** inhabits a number of idioms--**mīrum quam** (marvelously), **sānē quam** (immensely), **valdē quam** (enormously)--all of which function as adverbs.
    - 5.1.1. He has uncommonly few of his own: **suōs valdē quam paucōs habet.**
    - 5.1.2. I was immensely glad: **sānē quam sum gāvīsus.**
  - 5.2. Placing **quam** before a superlative adjective or adverb intensifies the superlative
    - 5.2.1. They had the very least: **quam mimimum habuērunt.**

The Essential AG: 291c, 323g, 535c

Famous Phrase: **carpe diēm! quam minimum credūla posterō**

[seize the day! put the very least trust in tomorrow]

(Horace, Odes, 1.1)