

Uses of Quam (part 1 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. Comparative **Quam**
 - 3.1. Placing **quam** between two **comparative** adjectives or adverbs is a standard method of comparison
 - 3.1.1. The line was more long than broad: **longior quam lātiōr aciēs erat.**
 - 3.2. Placing **magis quam** between two **positive** adjectives or adverbs is also common
 - 3.2.1. She is more renowned than is honorable for a queen: **clārā magis quam honestā reginae est.**
 - 3.3. Placing **quam** (alone) between two positives or a comparative and a positive is a “rarer and less elegant” means of making a comparison (AG, 292 n)
 - 3.3.1. The prophet is more eloquent than wise: **vatēs disertus quam sapiēns est.**
 - 3.4. **Quam** may also compare one clause to another
 - 3.4.1. I never saw a shrewder man than Phormio: **hominem callidiōrem vīdī nēminem quam Phormiōnem.**
 - 3.4.2. It is better to suffer than to do an injustice: **accipere quam facere praestat iniuriam.**
4. **Quam** or the Ablative of Comparison?
 - 4.1. Where a noun, pronoun, adjective or adverb in the **nominative** or **accusative** is the subject of comparison, the **ablative of comparison** is standard
 - 4.1.1. Silver is less precious than gold, gold than virtues: **vīlius argentum est aurō, virtūtibus aurum.**
 - 4.2. Where these are *not* in the nominative or accusative, or where the relative (comparative) statement is a **clause**, **quam** is preferred
 - 4.2.1. The old man is in this respect in a better position than a young man: **senex est eō meliōre condiōne quam adulēscēns.**
 - 4.2.2. For examples of **quam** with comparative clauses, see (3.4) above
 - 4.3. Be warned--the poets walk all over this rule

The Essential AG: 292a

cariōr est illīs homō quam sibi

(man is dearer to those (the gods) than to himself)

[Juvenal, Satires, 10.350]