

**A MANUAL OF
MOOD
CONSTRUCTIONS**

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A manual of mood constructions by Edward Thring

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EDWARD THRING

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MOOD CONSTRUCTIONS.

BY
THE REV. EDWARD THRING,
HEAD-MASTER OF UPPINGHAM SCHOOL;
LATE FELLOW OF KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.



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COMMON LATIN MOOD CONSTRUCTIONS.

THE Verb is said to be in a Mood when it shews by its form the manner in which action or existence is viewed, as certain or uncertain, definite or indefinite, as a fact, or as a conception of the mind more or less vivid.

The Moods are Four: the Indicative, the Conjunctive, the Imperative and the Infinitive.

The Indicative states or *indicates* a positive fact, as, 'He goes.'

The Conjunctive represents the notions of supposition, uncertainty, or dependence, with respect to action or existence, as, 'Were he to go, he would,' &c.

The Imperative commands, as, 'Go.'

The Infinitive Mood denotes the sense of the Verb apart from all conditions, excepting occasionally the notion of Time, as, 'To go.' But the Infinitive Mood is really a verbal substantive and not a Mood.

The Conjunctive Mood is always used in Latin unless a definite fact is to be stated.

There are four great classes of sentences in Latin in which the Conjunctive Mood is used,—Conditional Sentences, Relative Sentences, Time Sentences, and Dependent Sentences.

In English, Relative Sentences are always Indicative, as far as the Relative is concerned.

That is, the instances of Relative Conjunctive constructions in English are so few, as to give no help in learning Latin or Greek.

In English, Time Sentences are always Indicative, as far as the Time Particle is concerned.

That is, the instances of Relative or Time Conjunctive constructions in English are so few, as to give no help in learning Latin or Greek.

In English, Conditional Sentences are very often Indicative.

In English, many Dependent Sentences are Indicative.

In Latin, the Conjunctive Mood is always used in the Dependent Sentence, and, unless there is a special intention to mark definiteness and fact, in the other sentences also.

This difference of idiom arises from the ease with which a Latin expresses Mood distinctions, which makes the Latins fond of using Moods, and from the difficulty in English of expressing Moods, which makes us avoid Moods, whenever it is possible to do so without serious loss of sense.

THE RELATIVE SENTENCE.

Relatives are joined either with Indicative or with Conjunctive Moods according to the sense intended. If the Relative refers to a definite person or fact, the Indicative is used, if not, the Conjunctive.

Persons definite are, first, any particular individual; then any number taken as one, a class, as, '*Qui grammatici vocantur,*' i.e. 'grammarians as a class.'

Facts definite are, first, any single fact, then, any number of similar facts taken as one, a habit.

Persons or facts are indefinite, when out of any number more or less are selected on account of some quality or other, i.e. when the sort or character of person, not particular persons, are mentioned, as '*Qui in grammatica floruerint,*' the sort of persons who were grammarians.

When relatives applied to a definite person or fact are followed by the Conjunctive Mood, they give, either, 1st, the character, as, '*Animus is qui plus cernat,*' = 'That soul which is such a one as to see,' or andly, the reason, as, '*Jure igitur ille gravis, cujus de laudibus omnium esset fama consentiens,*' = 'inasmuch as, because.'

Subordinate relative clauses in Latin almost always follow the *construction of the principal clause in mood.*

Note. The Relative is often exactly equivalent in sense to a Conditional Conjunction and a Pronoun combined; thus its construction is nearly allied to that of Conditionals. Relative Particles of Time, Place, &c. all follow the same laws of construction, and Dependent sentences also are generally only a peculiar form of Relative sentences, and do not differ in Construction from them; perhaps in all cases their origin is relative.

Note. Many adverbs, e.g. Perhaps, possibly, &c., give a Mood sense, i.e. that sort of sense that is given by the change in the Verb which we call a Mood change, and therefore are much used in English, where in Latin a Mood change is enough.

The Nymph.

Stagnant

Nympha colit, sed nec venatibus apta, nec Arcum
Flectere quæ soleat, nec quæ contendere cursu.

OID. *Met.* IV. 302.

Pleasant madness.

Fuit haud ignobilis Argis,

Qui se credebat miras audire tragædos,
In vacuo lætus sessor plausorque teatro.
Cætera qui vitæ servaret munia recto
More, bonus sane vicinus, amabilis hospes,
Posset qui rupem et puteum vitare patentem.

HOR. *Ep.* II. 2. 148.

Content.

Argentum, vestes Gartulo murice tinctas
Sunt qui non habeant, est qui non curat habere.

i.e. Many have not got, I know one who does not want them.

HOR. *Ep.* II. 2. 181.

A Storm.

Secutæ sunt continuos complures dies tempestates, quæ et nos-
tros in castris continerent, et hostem a pugna prohiberent.

CÆS. B. G. IV. 31.

Old age.

Senex, ne *quod speret* quidem habet; sed est eo meliore conditione, quam adolescens, quum id, *quod ille sperat*, hic jam consecutus est. Ille vult diu vivere: hic diu vixit. CIC. *De Sen.* XIX. 68.

THE TIME SENTENCE.

Time Particles in Latin are definite and indefinite. Their construction is the same as the Relative Pronoun, for they are Relatives. And Relatives of place, manner, &c. have exactly the same construction as Relatives of Time.

Time sentences have two clauses of this form:—‘When so and so, then so and so.’

The Mood used in Latin depends on whether the time spoken of is viewed as definite, or indefinite.

Definite time is first a fixed point of time, a moment; next any space of time viewed as a point, a minute, an hour, a day, a year, &c.

Indefinite time is when no fixed moment is taken, but something is viewed as taking place at some time or other in a longer period.

As ‘When he was in India, he hunted,’ = ‘*Quum esset*,’ i.e. ‘Not all the time, but at various periods not fixed.’

All time sentences where the time is a fixed point have Indicatives.

All time sentences where the time of each clause is exactly commensurate with that of the other, have Indicatives, as

Dum juga montis aper, fluvios *dum* piscis amabit,
Semper honos, nomenque tuum laudesque manebunt.

All time sentences where the time is a fluctuating period have Conjunctives.

The second clause of a time sentence is always Indicative as far as the time construction is concerned.

The English time sentences are almost always Indicative.

There is this strict rule in Latin: In double claused sentences, Presents always follow Presents, and Past Tenses always follow *Past Tenses*. Strict Present Tenses and Strict Past Tenses are *never intermixed*.

The Present Tenses are the Present and Future, the Past Tenses are the Imperfect and Pluperfect. The Perfect Tense is sometimes past, as, *Veni*, I came, sometimes Present, as, *Veni*, I am come.

This is common sense; e.g. 'I am going home, and I had arrived there,' is nonsense. So also is, 'If I am going home, I had arrived there.' So also is, 'I am going home, that I had arrived there.'

But the Latin extends the rule very strictly to all those instances which other languages allow, where the sense is plain, though the grammar is not quite correct without supplying an ellipse, e.g. 'If it were farther off, I will pluck it down,' i.e. 'I will pluck it down wherever it is, and I would do so if it were farther off.' This construction would be inadmissible in Latin.

DEFINITE TIME,

i.e. the moment when, or during the time that.

The greyhound.

Ut canis in vacuo leporem *quam* Gallicus arvo
Fidit et hic *prædam* pedibus *petit*, ille salutem;
 Alter *inhæsuro* similis jam jamque tenere
Sperat et extento *stringit* *vestigia* rostro.

Ov. Met. I. 533.

Narcissus to his shadow.

Spem mihi nescio quam, vultu promittis amico:
Quumque ego *porrexi* mea brachia, *porrigis* ultro
Quam risi, *arrides*. Ov. Met. III. 457.

INDEFINITE TIME,

i.e. any period not precisely fixed.

N.B. The Latins always used Conjunctions when it was possible to do so, i.e. they intend emphatically to mark precision by Indicatives. This arose from the ease with which the language expresses mood distinctions. On the contrary, the English never

use Conjunctives unless they are obliged to express uncertainty; this arises from there being no proper Conjunctive forms in English.

Rule. In Latin, if the sense can admit a Conjunctive, put one.

The tame stag.

Cervus erat forma præstanti et cornibus ingens,
Hunc procul errantem rabidæ venantis Iuli
Commovere canes, fluvio *quum* forte secundo
Deflueret, ripaque æstus viridante *levaret*.

VIRG. *Æn.* VII. 492.

The standard-bearer.

Hoc *quum* magna voce *dixisset*, se ex navi *proiecit* atque in
hostes aquilam ferre cepit. CÆS. *B. G.* IV. 25.

The British attack.

Dum ea geruntur, legione ex consuetudine una frumentatum
missa, *quum* pars hominum in agris *remaneret*, pars etiam in castra
ventitaret, ii qui pro portis castrorum in statione erant, Cæsari
nuntiaverunt majorem pulverem videri. Cæsar, *quum* paullo lon-
gius a castris *processisset*, suos ab hostibus premi *animadvertit*.

CÆS. *B. G.* IV. 32.

INDEFINITE PLACE, MANNER, VALUE, &c.

RELATIVES OF PLACE, MANNER, &c.

Velim, ibi malis esse, *ubi* aliquo numero *sis*, quam istic, *ubi*
solus sapere *videre*. CIC. *Fam.* I. 10.

Nemo sit, *quin* ubivis, quam ibi, *ubi est* esse *malis*.

CIC. *Fam.* VI. I. I.

Quod *ubique* habeat frumenti ostendit.

CÆSAR, *B. G.* II. 20. 8.

Montis sublime cacumen

Occupat, *unde* sedens partes *speculetur* in omnes.

OV. *Met.* I. 667.

Oculi, *quocumque* inciderint, veterem consuetudinem fori re-
quirunt. CIC. *Mil.* I.