PURPOSE CLAUSE

A purpose clause is a subordinate clause which indicates the purpose of the action performed in the main clause.

We listen to the teacher in order to understand the subjunctive mood.

<u>listen</u> is the main verb, and the reason we listen is to understand; <u>in order to understand the subjunctive mood</u> is a purpose clause.

In Latin, positive purpose clauses are introduced by *ut* followed by a verb in the subjunctive mood. Negative purpose clauses are introduced by *ne* followed by a verb in the subjunctive mood.

Audimus ut intellegamus

We listen in order to understand.

Purpose clauses **always** express subsequent action. The action of the main verb is being done to make possible the action in the subordinate clause. The action of the main verb has to take place for the action of the subordinate clause to happen. Therefore, you will find only **present** and **imperfect** subjunctives in purpose clauses. If the main clause sets up primary sequence, the verb in the purpose clause will be present subjunctive. If the main clause sets up secondary sequence, the verb in the purpose clause will be imperfect subjunctive.

Tacemus ne magister iratus sit. We are silent so that the teacher may not be angry.

Tacuimus ne magister iratus esset. We were silent so that the teacher might not be angry.

The present subjunctive in a purpose clause can be translates with " may, " while the imperfect subjunctive can be translated with " might . . . " If main verb and the subjunctive subordinate verb have the same subject, the subjunctive verb can be translated with " in order to . . . "

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| Discipuii noios legunt ut muita sciant. | |
| Milites oppidum oppugnabant ut hostes vincere | nt. |
| Discipuli diligentissime audiunt ne stulti sint. | |
| Milites fortissime pugnabant ne a hostibus supe | rarentur |