

Uses of (the Latin Word) Cum

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I. *Cum* can be used as a **preposition**.

If you have a sentence with *cum* + **ablative**, you have to decide between:

1) Ablative of Accompaniment: fugit cum amicis ('He flees with his friends')
OR

OR

2) Ablative of Means: fugit cum celeritate ('He flees quickly')

II. *Cum* can also **introduce subordinate clauses**.

1) If you have *cum* introducing a subordinate clause with a verb in the indicative...

Then it is a temporal cum clause and it defines a strictly temporal relationship between the event of the *cum* clause and the event of the main clause. There is no implication by the author of causation in the *cum* clause.

E.g Scripsi has litteras, cum apud me eras ('I wrote this letter when you were at my house')

2) If you have *cum* introducing a subordinate clause with a verb in the subjunctive...

This is a circumstantial cum clause and it defines the general circumstances under which the event in the main clause occurred.

There are 3 flavors of circumstantial cum clauses:

- 1) Circumstantial : Cum hoc fecisset, ad te fugit ('When he had done this, he fled to you)
- 2) Causal : Cum hoc sciret, potuit eos iuvare ('Since he knew this, he was able to help them')
- 3) Adversative ; Cum Gaium diligeremus, non poteramus eum iuvare ('Although we loved Gaius, we could not help him')