Cum Clauses

*Cum* as a preposition regularly is followed by the ablative case.

*Cum* can also be a subordinating conjunction introducing a subordinate clause. There are four types of *cum* clauses:

**Temporal:** A temporal *cum* clause simply states the time at which something occurs without any further relationship between the events. The mood in a *cum* temporal clause is indicative:

*Cum Caesar consul erat, domus mea incendebatur.*
When Caesar was consul, my house was burned down.

*Cum Romae estis, agite sicut Romani.*
When you are in Rome, do like the Romans

**Circumstantial:** A circumstantial *cum* clause states the *circumstances* or surrounding events at the time of the action in the main clause. The mood in a *cum* circumstantial clause is subjunctive:

*Caelor cum loqueretur, ab inimics interfectus est.*
When Caesar was speaking, he was killed by his enemies.

**Causal:** A causal *cum* clause state the cause of the action in the main clause. The mood in a *cum* causal clause is subjunctive:

*Cum nox iam appeteret, ad speluncam devertit.*
Because night was now approaching, he turned away into a cave.

*Dux urbem dedit cum hostes extra portas essent.*
The general surrounded the city because the enemies were at the gates.

**Concessive:** A concessive *cum* clause express an incompatibility between the two clauses. The mood in a *cum* concessive clause is subjunctive:

*Cicero, cum in oppido parvo natus esset, Romae tamen vivebat.*
Cicero, although he was born in a small town, nevertheless lived in Rome.

*Cum copiae hostium essent maiores, Romani tamen eas vicerunt.*
Although the forces of the enemy were greater, the Romans nevertheless overcame them.