

QUIN AND QUOMINUS

a. Alternative Indirect Statement:

After negative (or virtually negative) verbs of doubting, **quin + subjunctive** replaces accusative + infinitive and means 'that'.

non dubito **quin** Romani urbem deleverint I don't doubt **that** the Romans destroyed the city

quis dubitet **quin** Romani urbem deleverint? Who'd doubt **that** the Romans destroyed the city?

The second example contains a virtually negative verb of doubting because it is a rhetorical question expecting the answer 'nobody'.

b. Clauses of Prevention:

After a verb of prevention, { **ne / quin / quo minus** } + **subjunctive** means 'from'.

As would be expected, **quin** can only follow a negative main clause. **quo minus** is more flexible:

After a positive main clause: **quo minus** or **ne**.

After a negative main clause: **quo minus** or **quin**.

hiems nos impedivit **quo minus / ne** navigaremus winter has hindered us **from** sailing

non me deterrebis **quo minus / quin** te accusem you will not deter me **from** accusing you

Verbs of preventing: impedio, retineo, deterreo, mihi tempero, dubito, recuso

N.B. **prohibeo** takes accusative and infinitive – use this in prose comp if under-confident with quin.

c. quin = qui...non / ut...non:

After negative (or virtually negative) main clauses, **quin** can be used (plus subjunctive) as a relative pronoun to introduce a negative generic clause. It is short for 'qui...non' and means 'who...not':

nemo est **quin** artem Ciceronis laudet there is nobody **who** doesn't praise Cicero's art

After negative (or virtually negative) main clauses, **quin** can be used (plus subjunctive) in the place of **qui...non / ut...non** to introduce a result clause. It means 'that...not' or, more naturally, 'without':

nullum diem intermittebant **quin** aliquid discerent they let no day pass **without** learning something

(Literally: they let no day pass **with the result that they did not** learn something)

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SUMMARY

Unless you are composing Latin, you do not need to learn the complex rules governing the use of quin and quominus. You should simply learn the various translations and signposts:

quin + subjunctive:

TRANSLATION	NAME OF CLAUSE	SIGNPOST
1. that	alternative indirect statement	negative vb of doubting
2. from	clauses of prevention	vb of prevention (not prohibeo)
3. who...not	negative generic clauses	nemo est, quis est, etc.
4. that...not / without	negative result clauses	(none)

Note 1. **quin + indicative** means **why...not?**

quin domum mecum **venis?**

why don't you come home with me?

Note 2. as an adverb, **quin** means **rather, nay rather, but indeed.**

quo minus + subjunctive:

TRANSLATION	NAME OF CLAUSE	SIGNPOST
1. from	clauses of prevention	vb of prevention (not prohibeo)

Note. **quo minus** may also be written as one word (**quominus**).