

g) **Futurum esse / fore ut**

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1/ We have seen in the section on infinitive clauses that future infinitives can be used like in this example:

- ⇒ Direct statement: *Octavia libros Caesari dabit* OCTAVIA WILL GIVE THE BOOKS TO CAESAR.
 ⇒ Indirect statement: *Puto Octaviam libros Caesari daturam esse* I THINK THAT OCTAVIA WILL GIVE THE BOOKS TO CAESAR.

The problem would come if the verb is in the passive voice, like in this example:

- ⇒ Direct statement: *Pons delebitur a Caesare* THE BRIDGE WILL BE DESTROYED BY CAESAR.
 ⇒ Indirect statement: *Puto pontem deletum iri a Caesare* I THINK THAT THE BRIDGE WILL BE DESTROYED BY CAESAR.

Although this is grammatically right, the passive future infinitive is not much used for reported speech, and in exchange this kind of statements about a future action are usually expressed in another way: by means of **futurum esse**, the future infinitive of **sum** in its neuter singular form, followed by a result clause (obviously, introduced by **ut**).

- The sense of future is in the infinitive **futurum esse** (or **fore**).
- The action to be performed is expressed in the **ut** clause.

The final result would be *Puto fore ut pons a Caesare deleatur*.

✧ Literally: I THINK THAT IT WILL BE THAT THE BRIDGE BE DESTROYED BY CAESAR.

- *Sperant fore ut patris litteris nuntiisque filius ab illo furore revocetur* THEY HOPE THAT THE SON MAY BE CALLED OFF FROM THAT INSANITY BY MEANS OF LETTERS AND MESSENGERS FROM HIS FATHER (Cicero, *In Verrem*).

2/ This device is also used in the active voice, in case we need a future active infinitive of a verb that has no supine (and that therefore can not have a future active infinitive):

- ⇒ Direct statement: *Marcus Caesarem timebit* MARCUS WILL FEAR CAESAR.
 ⇒ Indirect statement: *Puto Marcum Caesarem + future inf. of timeo* I THINK THAT MARCUS WILL FEAR CAESAR.

The verb **timeo** has no supine, so it does not have a future infinitive. The only option we have is to use the aforementioned construction with **fore** (**futurum esse**) **ut**:

Puto futurum esse ut Marcus Caesarem timeat I THINK THAT MARCUS WILL FEAR CAESAR.

✧ Literally: I THINK THAT IT WILL BE THAT MARCUS FEAR CAESAR.

3/ So, the usage of **fore ut** is a matter either of avoiding the unusual passive future infinitive or of solving the problem of the absence of a future active infinitive. For example, the deponent verb **ulciscor** TO AVENGE has no future infinitive; most deponent verbs can have a future infinitive, like **conaturum, -am, -um esse**, but not all of them have it, and **ulturum, -am, -um esse** (derived from its perfect form **ultus sum**) is not found:

- *Clamabant fore ut ipsi se di immortales ulciscerentur* THEY WERE SHOUTING THAT THE IMMORTAL GODS THEMSELVES WOULD AVENGE THEM (Cicero, *In Verrem*).