

## CHAPTER 28

### Subjunctive : Present Active and Passive; Jussive; Purpose

In this chapter, you begin your study of the subjunctive mood of verbs by learning the subjunctive in the present tense and two of the uses of the subjunctive mood : the **jussive** (JUH siv or JEW siv) subjunctive and the purpose (or final) clause.

The first real difficulty for students to overcome when beginning the subjunctive is to realize that there is no one way to translate a Latin verb in the subjunctive mood. The subjunctive mood is one primarily of syntax and is almost always used in subordinate clauses.

What you must do is

- (1) learn the morphology (formation) of the subjunctive mood, and then
- (2) study the different ways the subjunctive is used in Latin to express what.

Once you've understood the intent of the Latin sentence, then you're prepared to bring that meaning over into an appropriate English construction.

This all may sound rather metaphysical and frightening, but it isn't really.

It just means that the method of assigning one to one correspondences from Latin to English and vice versa, which may have served you so well in the past, can't help you anymore. You'll learn to form the subjunctive in the different tenses, while you collect and study the different uses of the subjunctive.

Let's start.

#### FORMATION OF THE SUBJUNCTIVE: PRESENT TENSE

The subjunctive is one of the moods of a Latin verb.

The moods you know so far are : indicative, imperative, infinitive, and participial.

The subjunctive mood is limited to finite forms (forms with person) of the verb.

Hence you'll not have to worry over the subjunctive infinitive, the subjunctive participle, et cetera.

#### I. Subjunctive of the First Conjugation Present Tense

To form the subjunctive, present tense, a first conjugation verb simply substitutes the normal stem vowel long "-a-" with a long "-e-".

The personal endings, active and passive, are not changed (except that the first person singular ending is the variant "-m" instead of "-o-").

Write out the present subjunctive active and passive of the first conjugation verb "laudo" in the present tense.

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
1st	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____
1st	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____

This wasn't so difficult, but look at these forms again.

If you didn't know that these forms were derived from a first conjugation verb, you might think that some of the forms were forms of the indicative from a second or third conjugation verb. The form "laudetis," for example, looks like it could be a present tense from a second conjugation verb, or a future tense of the third conjugation non i-stem verb.

The only way to be sure, if you're not totally familiar with the verb you're examining, is to look the verb up and make sure you note its conjugation.

When you see "laudo (1)" in the dictionary, then you can be sure that the form "laudetis" is subjunctive present tense.

Let's move on.

## II. Subjunctive of the First Conjugation Present Tense

As you're about to see, the way a first conjugation verb forms the subjunctive present tense is actually an exception to the general rule verbs follow to form the present subjunctive mood.

All other conjugations form the present subjunctive by inserting a long "-a-" between the stem and the personal endings.

This rule is easily seen in the second conjugation: "mone + a + m = moneam"; "mone + a + r = monear"; etc.

Write out the present subjunctive, active and passive, of "moneo, -ere".

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
1st	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____
1st	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____

## III. Subjunctive of the Third Conjugation Present Tense

When you insert the long "-a-" between the stem and the personal endings on a third conjugation verb, the stem vowel short "-e-" drops out entirely, leaving only the "-a-" between the personal endings.

Note that many of the resulting forms look exactly like first conjugation forms in the indicative mood.

Again, you need to take care from now on and look at your dictionary entries thoroughly.

Write out the subjunctive present tense, active and passive, of "duco, -ere".

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
1st	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____
1st	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____

### III. Subjunctive of the Third Conjugation i-stems Present Tense

In the present tense, the extra "-i-" of a i-stem verb is present throughout the forms : "capi + a + m = capiam" etc.

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
1st	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____
1st	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____

### IV. Subjunctive of the Fourth Conjugation Present Tense

The stem vowel of a fourth conjugation verb is a long "-i-" so it stays part of the stem after the addition of the long "-a-" sign of the subjunctive: "audi + a + m = audiam".

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
1st	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____
1st	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____

Don't forget that there are no subjunctive infinitives, imperatives, or participles. These are all the possible forms of the Latin subjunctive mood in the present tense. There is no present subjunctive participle, or present subjunctive infinitive. You now know all the subjunctive forms of the present tense.

### USES OF THE SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD : THE JUSSIVE SUBJUNCTIVE

The first use of the subjunctive you'll learn is the only use of the subjunctive in the main clause of a sentence (except for conditional sentences). All other uses of the subjunctive are restricted to subordinate clauses.

The **jussive subjunctive** is used when a command or exhortation is directed to a first or third person. (When a command is directed toward a second person, as you recall, Latin uses the imperative mood.) To issue a prohibition or negative command in the first or third persons, the negative particle "ne" is used, not "non".

We direct commands to first and third persons with our construction "let.." and negate them with "let...not..".

INDICATIVE	JUSSIVE SUBJUNCTIVE
<i>Viros bonos laudamus</i> (We are praising good men.)	<i>Viros bonos laudemus.</i> (Let's praise good men.)

*Veniunt.*  
(They are coming.)

*Veniant.*  
(Let them come.)

*Libros malos non legimus.*  
(We don't read bad books.)

*Ne libros malos legamus.*  
(Let's not read bad books.)

## THE SUBJUNCTIVE IN PURPOSE CLAUSES

A purpose clause is, as the name tells us, a subordinate clause which explain the purpose for which the action in the main clause was undertaken.

English has basically two ways to show purpose :

- (1) infinitive, sometimes supplemented with "in order," and
- (2) a subordinate clause introduced by "so that" or "so" or "in order that" often with the conditional mood of the verb.

Let's look at the infinitive showing purpose first.

"She is coming to help (or in order to help)".

"They are sending him to tell you what to do".

"The dog has a long nose to smell better".

"In order to serve you better, our store has installed anti-theft devices".

Now let's rewrite these sentences using method (2) - as full subordinate clauses with finite verbs:

"She is coming so that she may help".

"They are sending him so that he may tell you what to do".

"The dog has a long nose so that it may smell better".

"In order that we may serve you better, our store has installed anti-theft devices".

Some of these may sound rather over-blown; our native English sense leans toward simplicity.

But there are many cases where we must use the subordinate clause to show purpose.

For example, there is no way, short of considerable re-writing, to simplify these purpose clauses down to infinitives.

"We are coming so that you won't have to work so hard".

"She is writing the paper so that you can leave early".

The Latin prose you're studying has only one way to show purpose : a full subordinate clause introduced by "ut" or "ne" (the negative) plus a finite verb in the subjunctive mood.

It never uses the infinitive to show purpose, the way English does.

We can translate the Latin purpose clause in whichever of the two English purpose constructions seems most natural to us, but never try to translate an infinitive showing purpose in English directly into a Latin infinitive.

*Id facit ut eos adiuvet.*

(He is doing it to help them [or in order to help them, or so that he may help them].)

*Veniunt ne civitates deleantur.*

(They are coming so that the cities will not be destroyed.)

*Haec dicit ut discipuli omnia intellegant.*

(He is saying these things so that the students will understand everything.)

*Multos libros legit ne stulta videatur.*

(She reads many books so that she won't seem foolish.)

## **A FINAL WORD**

"Real" Latin uses the subjunctive mood nearly as often as the indicative mood, so, obviously, you must thoroughly master the forms and the uses of the subjunctive.

But beyond that, you must also begin to read Latin, not word by word, but letter by letter.

You must strive to understand every tiny twist and turn of the morphology of the verbs.

As you know, the difference between an indicative and subjunctive mood is very often just one letter; it seems like a microscopic difference, but if you fail to note it, your entire sentence will come grinding to a halt.

I strongly recommend that you first throw this book down for a few hours and let it "cool" off.

Next look over the vocabulary briefly, write down the entire entry for each verb, and turn to the self-help tutorials for this chapter, constantly checking the answers. Then throw the book down.

After a few hours - or the next day - look over the vocabulary again, and start the assignment.

You simply must slow down some and watch your steps carefully as you begin the subjunctive.

If you get off the path now, you'll get more and more lost in the future.

By the end of Chapter 30, you'll have studied all the forms of the subjunctive and many of its most common uses - and that's a pretty quick pace.

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