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Imperfect Subjunctive; Present and Imperfect Subjunctive of Sum and Possum; Result Clauses

THE IMPERFECT SUBJUNCTIVE

The imperfect subjunctive is perhaps the easiest of all the subjunctive tenses to recognize and form. For all verbs it is in effect simply the present active infinitive + the present system personal endings, active and passive, with the *-ē* long (except, as usual, before final *-m*, *-r*, and *-t*, and both final and medial *-nt/-nt-*). Sample forms are given in the following paradigms; for complete conjugations, see the Appendix (p. 453–54).

1. laudāre-m	laudāre-r	ágerer	audírem	cáperem
2. laudāre-s	laudāre-ris	ageréris	audírēs	cáperēs
3. laudāre-t	laudāre-tur	agerétur	audíret	cáperet
1. laudāre-mus	laudāre-mur	agerémur	audíremus	caperémus
2. laudāre-tis	laudāre-minī	ageréminī	audírētis	caperētis
3. laudāre-nt	laudāre-ntur	ageréntur	audírent	cáperent

PRESENT AND IMPERFECT SUBJUNCTIVE OF Sum AND Possum

The present subjunctives of **sum** and **possum** are irregular (though they do follow a consistent pattern) and must be memorized. The imperfect subjunctives, however, follow the rule given above.

Present Subjunctive		Imperfect Subjunctive	
1. sim	póssim	éssem	póssem
2. sīs	póssīs	éssēs	póssēs
3. sit	póssit	éssēt	póssēt
1. símus	possímus	essémus	possémus
2. sítis	possítis	essétis	possétis
3. sint	póssint	éssent	póssent

Particular care should be taken to distinguish between the forms of the present and the imperfect subjunctive of **possum**.

USE AND TRANSLATION OF THE IMPERFECT SUBJUNCTIVE

The imperfect subjunctive is used in a variety of clause types, including purpose and result clauses, when the main verb is a past tense. As for all subjunctives, the translation depends upon the type of clause, but auxiliaries sometimes used with the imperfect include *were*, *would*, and, in purpose clauses, *might* (vs. *may* for the present tense). Study these sample sentences containing purpose clauses:

Hoc dīcit **ut** eōs **iuvet**.
He says this (in order) to help them.
*so that he **may** help them.*

Hoc dīxit (dīcēbat) **ut** eōs **iuvāret**.
He said (kept saying) this (in order) to help them.
*so that he **might** help them.*

Hoc facit **nē** urbs **capiātur**.
*He does this so that the city **may** not be captured.*

Hoc fēcit (faciēbat) **nē** urbs **caperētur**.
*He did (was doing) this so that the city **might** not be captured.*

Remember that in order to master the subjunctive (notice the purpose clause?!) you must 1) learn a definition for each clause type, 2) know how to recognize each, and 3) know the proper translation for the subjunctive verb in each type. Keep these three points in mind—*definition, recognition,*

translation—as you proceed to the following discussion of result clauses and to the subsequent chapters in this book.

RESULT CLAUSES

A result clause is a subordinate clause that shows the result of the action in the main clause; the purpose clause answers the question “*why* is (was) it being done?”, while the result clause answers the question “*what* is (was) the *outcome*?” Examples in English are: “it is raining so hard *that the streets are flooding*” and “she studied Latin so diligently *that she knew it like a Roman*.” Notice that English introduces such clauses with “*that*” and uses the indicative mood, generally with *no auxiliary* (i.e., neither “*may*” nor “*might*”).

Latin result clauses begin with **ut** and contain (usually at the end) a subjunctive verb. The result clause can be easily recognized, and distinguished from a purpose clause, by the sense and context and also by the fact that the main clause usually contains an adverb (**ita**, **tam**, **sic**, *so*) or adjective (**tantus**, *so much*, *so great*) indicating degree and signaling that a result clause is to follow. Moreover, if the clause describes a negative result, it will contain some negative word such as **nōn**, **nihil**, **nēmō**, **numquam** or **nūllus** (vs. a negative purpose clause, which is introduced by **nē**). Analyze carefully the following examples, and note that in the result clauses (vs. the purpose clauses) the subjunctive verb is regularly translated *as an indicative*, without an auxiliary (“*may*” or “*might*” are used only in those instances where a potential or ideal result, rather than an actual result, is being described):

Tanta fēcit **ut** urbem servāret, *he did such great things that he saved the city.* (Result)

Haec fēcit **ut** urbem servāret, *he did these things that he might save the city.* (Purpose)

Tam strēnuē labōrat **ut** multa perficiat, *he works so energetically that he accomplishes many things.* (Result)

Strēnuē labōrat **ut** multa perficiat, *he works energetically so that he may accomplish many things.* (Purpose)

Hoc tantā benevolentīā dīxit **ut** eōs nōn offenderet, *he said this with such great kindness that he did not offend them.* (Result)

Hoc magnā benevolentīā dīxit **nē** eōs offenderet, *he said this with great kindness in order that he might not offend them.* (Purpose)

Saltus erat angustus, **ut** paucī Graecī multōs militēs prohibēre possent, *the pass was narrow, so that a few Greeks were able to stop many soldiers.* (Result)

In this last example you will notice that there is no “signal word” such as *ita* or *tam* in the main clause, but it is clear from the context that the *ut* clause indicates the *result* of the pass’s narrowness (the pass was clearly not designed by nature with the purpose of obstructing Persians, but it was so narrow that the Persians were in fact obstructed by it).

VOCABULARY

- fátum, -ī, n.**, *fate, death* (fatal, fatalism, fatality, fateful, fairy; cp. **fābula, fāma**, and **for**, Ch. 40)
- ingénium, -ī, n.**, *nature, innate talent* (ingenuity, genius, genial, congenial; cp. **genus, gens, gignō**, *to create, give birth to*)
- moénia, moénium, n. pl.**, *walls of a city* (munitions, ammunition; cp. **mūniō**, *to fortify*)
- nāta, -ae, f.**, *daughter* (prenatal, postnatal, Natalie; cp. **nātūra, nātālis**, *of birth, natal, nāscor, Ch. 34)*
- ósculum, -ī, n.**, *kiss* (osculate, osculation, osculant, oscular, osculatory)
- síduš, síderis, n.**, *constellation, star* (sidereal, consider, desire)
- dígnus, -a, -um + abl.**, *worthy, worthy of* (dignify, dignity from **dignitās**, Ch. 38, indignation from **indignātiō**, *deign, disdain, dainty*)
- dúrus, -a, -um**, *hard, harsh, rough, stern, unfeeling, hardy, difficult* (dour, durable, duration, during, duress, endure, obdurate)
- tántus, -a, -um**, *so large, so great, of such a size* (tantamount)
- dénique**, *adv.*, *at last, finally, lastly*
- íta**, *adv.* used with adjs., vbs., and advs., *so, thus*
- quidem**, *postpositive adv.*, *indeed, certainly, at least, even; nē . . . quidem, not . . . even*
- síc**, *adv.* most commonly with verbs, *so, thus* (sic)
- tam**, *adv.* with adjs. and advs., *so, to such a degree; tam . . . quam, so . . . as*
- vērō**, *adv.*, *in truth, indeed, to be sure, however* (very, verily, etc.; cp. **vērus, vēritās**)
- cóndō, -dere, -didī, -ditum**, *to put together or into, store; found, establish* (= **con-** + **dō, dare**; *condiment, abscond, recondite, sconce*)
- conténdō, -téndere, -téndī, -téntum**, *to strive, struggle, contend; hasten* (contender, contentious; cp. **tendō**, *to stretch, extend*)
- mólliō, mollíre, mollívī, mollítum**, *to soften; make calm or less hostile* (mollescent, mollify, mollusk, emollient; cp. **mollis**, *soft, mild*)
- púgnō** (1), *to fight* (pugnacious, impugn, pugilist, pugilism; cp. **oppugnō**, Ch. 39)
- respóndeō, -spondére, -spóndī, -spónsum**, *to answer* (respond, response, responsive, responsibility, correspond)
- súrgō, súrgere, surréxī, surréctum**, *to get up, arise* (surge, resurgent, resurrection, insurgent, insurrection, source, resource)

PRACTICE AND REVIEW

1. Prīnceps arma meliōra in manibus mīlitum posuit, ut hostēs ter-rērent.
2. Hostēs quidem negāvērunt sē arma dissimilia habēre.
3. Pars mīlitum lūcem diēi vitāvit nē hīc vidērentur.
4. Sōlem prīmam lūcem caelī superī, lūnam prīmam lūcem vesperī, et stēllās oculōs noctis appellābant.
5. Illī adulēscētēs sapientiae dēnique cēdant ut fēliciōrēs hīs sint.
6. Sapientēs putant beneficia esse potentiōra quam verba acerba et turpia.
7. Quīdam magister verba tam dūra discipulīs dīxit ut discēderent.
8. Respondērunt auctōrem hōrum novem remediōrum esse medicam potentissimam.
9. Nihil vērō tam facile est ut sine labōre id facere possīmus.
10. Prō labōre studiōque patria nostra nōbīs plūrimās occāsiōnēs bonās praestat.
11. Parentēs plūrima ōscula dedērunt nātae gracilī, in quā maximam dēlectātiōnem semper inveniēbant.
12. The words of the philosopher were very difficult, so that those listening were unable to learn them.
13. The two women wished to understand these things so that they might not live base lives.
14. Those four wives were so pleasant that they received very many kindnesses.
15. He said that the writer's third poem was so beautiful that it delighted the minds of thousands of citizens.

SENTENTIAE ANTĪQUAE

1. Omnia vincit Amor; et nōs cēdāmus Amōrī. (Virgil.)
2. Urbem clārissimam condidī; mea moenia vīdī; explēvī cursum quem Fāta dederant. (Virgil.)
3. Ita dūrus erās ut neque amōre neque precibus mollīrī possēs. (Terence.—**prex, precis**, f., *prayer*.)
4. Nēmō quidem tam ferōx est ut nōn mollīrī possit, culturā datā. (Horace.—**cultūra, -ae**.)
5. Difficile est saturam nōn scrībere; nam quis est tam patiēns malae urbis ut sē teneat? (Juvenal.—**patiēns**, gen. **patientis**, *tolerant of*.)
6. Fuit quondam in hāc rē pūblicā tanta virtūs ut virī fortēs civem perniciosum ācriōribus poenīs quam acerbissimum hostem reprimerent. (Cicero.—**perniciōsus, -a, -um**, *pernicious*.—**re-primō**, cp. **op-primō**.)
7. Ita praeclāra est recuperātiō libertātis ut nē mors quidem in hāc rē sit fugienda. (Cicero.—**recuperātiō, -ōnis**, *recovery*.)

8. Nē ratiōnēs meōrum perīculōrum ūtilitātem reī pūblicae vincant. (Cicero.—**ūtilitās, -tātis, advantage**; cp. **ūtilis**.)
9. Eō tempore Athēniēnsēs tantam virtūtem praestitērunt ut decemplex numerum hostium superārent, et hōs sic perterruērunt ut in Asiam refugerent. (Nepos.—**Athēniēnsēs, -ium, Athenians**.—**decemplex, -icis, tenfold**.—**per-terreō**.)
10. Ōrātor exemplum dignum petat ab Dēmosthene illō, in quō tantum studium tantusque labor fuisse dīcuntur ut impedīmenta nātūrae dīligentiā industriāque superāret. (Cicero.—**exemplum, -ī, example**.—**Dēmostenēs, -thenis, a famous Greek orator**.—**impedīmentum, -ī**.—**dīligentia, -ae**.—**industria, -ae**.)



Demosthenes
Vatican Museums, Vatican State

11. Praecepta tua sint brevia ut cito mentēs discipulōrum ea discant tenēantque memoriā fidēlī. (Horace.—**praeceptum, -ī, precept**.)
12. Nihil tam difficile est ut nōn possit studiō invēstīgārī. (Terence.—**invēstīgāre, to track down, investigate**.)
13. Bellum autem ita suscipiātur ut nihil nisi pāx quaesīta esse videātur. (Cicero.)
14. Tanta est vīs prohibitātis ut eam etiam in hoste dīligāmus. (Cicero.)

HOW MANY KISSES ARE ENOUGH?

Quaeris, Lesbia, quot bāsia tua sint mihi satis? Tam multa bāsia quam magnus numerus Libyssae harēnae aut quam sīdera multa quae, cum tacet nox, furtīvōs amōrēs hominum vident—tam bāsia multa (nēmō numerum scīre potest) sunt satis Catullō īnsānō!

(Catullus 7; prose adaptation.—**quot . . . sint, how many . . . are** (an indirect question; see Ch. 30)—**Libyssae, Libyan, African**.—**harēna, -ae, sand, here = the grains of sand**.—**furtīvus, -a, -um, stolen, secret**.—**īnsānus, -a, -um**.)

THE NERVOUSNESS OF EVEN A GREAT ORATOR

Ego dēhinc ut respondērem surrēxī. Quā sollicitūdine animī surgēbam—dī immortalēs—et quō timōre! Semper quidem magnō cum metū incipiō dīcere. Quotiēscumque dīcō, mihi videor in iūdicium venīre nōn solum ingenī sed etiam virtūtis atque officiī. Tum vērō ita sum perturbātus ut omnia timērem. Dēnique mē collēgī et sic pugnāvī, sic omnī ratiōne contendī ut nēmō mē neglēxisse illam causam putāret.

(Cicero, *Prō Cluentiō* 51.—**sollicitūdō**, -**dinis**, f., *anxiety*.—**quotiēscumque**, adv., *whenever*.—The genitives **ingenī**, **virtūtis**, and **officiī** all modify **iūdicium**.—**perturbāre**, *to disturb, confuse*.—**colligō**, -**ere**, -**lēgī**, -**lēctum**, *to gather, collect, control*.)

YOU'RE ALL JUST WONDERFUL!

Nē laudet dignōs, laudat Callistratus omnēs:
cui malus est nēmō, quis bonus esse potest?

(*Martial 12.80; meter: elegiac couplet.—**dignōs**, i.e., *only the deserving*.—**Callistratus**, a Greek name, meant to suggest perhaps a former slave.—**quis . . . potest**, supply **eī**, antecedent of **cui**, *to a man to whom*.)

ETYMOLOGY

The adverbial ending **-mente** or **-ment** which is so characteristic of Romance languages derives from Lat. **mente** (abl. of **mēns**) used originally as an abl. of manner but now reduced to an adverbial suffix. The following examples are based on Latin adjectives which have already appeared in the vocabularies.

Latin Words	It. Adverb	Sp. Adverb	Fr. Adverb
dūrā mente	duramente	duramente	durement
clārā mente	chiaramente	claramente	clairement
sōlā mente	solamente	solamente	seulement
certā mente	certamente	certamente	certainement
dulcī mente	dolcemente	dulcemente	doucement
brevī mente	brevemente	brevemente	bièvement
facilī mente	facilmente	fácilmente	facilement

Lat. **sic** is the parent of It. **si**, Sp. **sí**, and Fr. **si** meaning *yes*.

In the readings

3. precatory, precarious, pray, prayer. 5. patient. 10. exemplar, exemplary, exemplify. 12. vestige, vestigial. "Nervousness": solicitous, solicitude.—perturbation.—collection. "Kisses": arena.—furtive.—insanity.

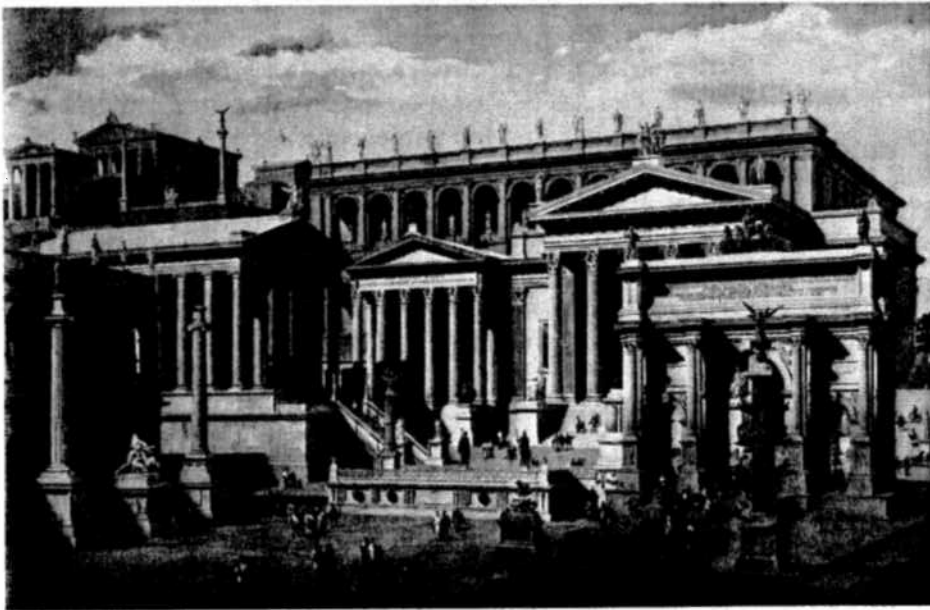
LATĪNA EST GAUDIUM—ET ŪTILIS!

Salvē! Long-time *Tonight Show* fans will know why I call result clauses "Johnny Carson clauses": during his monologue, Johnny began many an

anecdote with the likes of “I saw this fellow the other night who was *so funny . . .*”. Ed McMahon (or some bloke from the audience) then chimes in, “*How funny was he, Johnny?*” and Johnny replies, always with a result clause, “*Why, he was so funny that . . .!*”

Sunt multae dēlectātiōnēs in novō vocābulārīō nostrō: e.g., there’s Virginia’s state motto, **sīc semper tyrannīs**, *thus always to tyrants* (death, i.e.); and **ingenium**, which really means *something inborn*, like a Roman man’s **genius** (his inborn guardian spirit, counterpart to the woman’s **iūnō**, magnified and deified in the goddess Juno); the connection of **moenia** and **mūnīre** reminds us that fortification walls were the ancients’ best munitions, and there’s the old proverb **praemonitus, praemūnītus**, *forewarned (is) forearmed*; **sīc** is an editor’s annotation, meaning *thus (it was written)*, and used to identify an error or peculiarity in a text being quoted.

And here’s a brief “kissertation” on the nicest word in this new list: **ōsculum** was the native word for *kiss* (vs. **bāsium**, which the poet Catullus seems to have introduced into the language from the north); it is actually the diminutive of **ōs, ōris** (Ch. 14) and so means literally *little mouth* (which perhaps proves the Romans “puckered up” when they smooched!). Catullus, by the way, loved to invent words, and one was **bāsiātiō**, *kissification* or *smooch-making* (“smooch,” by the way, is not Latinate, alas, but Germanic and related to “smack,” as in “to smack one’s lips,” which one might do before enjoying either a kiss or a slice of toast with “Smucker’s”!). **Rīdēte et valēte!**



Reconstruction of the Roman Forum, Soprintendenza alle Antichita, Rome, Italy