Grammatica: Unit 9

Independent Uses of the Subjunctive

Independent Subjunctives (Subjunctive as the Main Verb)

Although the subjunctive, as you have learned thus far, is primarily used in subordinate clauses (not main clauses), sometimes it will occur as the main verb when the action of the verb is suggested, indefinite, potential, or non-factual in some way. In English, we use auxiliaries such as "may," "might" or "would" to convey the indefinite nature of these verbs; however, in Latin the subjunctive is used. There is no one universal way to translate the subjunctive, so you should learn carefully the different ways to translate each type of subjunctive main clause.

There are four uses of the subjunctive as the main verb:

1. **Hortatory Subjunctive** (a polite command)
   Sometimes used as an acknowledgement of contrary information or circumstances as a **Concession**
2. **Optative Subjunctive** (a wish)
3. **Potential Subjunctive** (a possibility)
4. **Deliberative Subjunctive** (a rhetorical question or deliberation)

You will learn each of these in this Unit. Two of these Independent Subjunctives use *ne* to negate the verb (#1 and 2) and two use *non* (#3 and 4). When you learn each construction, make sure you learn how to negate it. The hortatory subjunctive is the most common of the independent uses of the subjunctive, and so it has been given extra examples below.

Hortatory Subjunctive

The Hortatory Subjunctive is used to express a command (*hortor* - to urge). Primarily it is used for commands in the first and third persons, and imperatives are used for the second person.* The easiest way to translate this type of subjunctive is to use the auxiliary "Let . . ."

Study the examples below:

> ***Eripiat*** *illum.*
> **Let her rescue** that man.
>
> ***Servemus*** *filiam.*
> **Let us watch over** the daughter.

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***Surgant** cum populo.*
Let them rise with the people.

***Taceam**.*
Let me be silent.

The Hortatory Subjunctive is negated with *ne*. See the examples below:

*In foro **ne pugnent**.*
Let them not fight in the forum.

***Ne curramus** ab hostibus.*
Let us not run from the enemy.

When the hortatory subjunctive is found in the imperfect or pluperfect subjunctive, the auxiliaries "should have" replace the "let" in English. See the examples below:

***Eripuisset** illum.*
She should have rescued that man.

*In foro **ne pugnarent**.*
They should not have fought in the forum.

When the hortatory subjunctive is used to convey a concession, it appears either in the present or perfect subjunctive. Use the expressions "granted that" or "suppose" in English. See the examples below:

***Surgant** cum populo.*
Granted that they are rising with the people.

*In foro **pugnaverint . . .***
Suppose they fought in the forum. . .

*The Hortatory Subjunctive can be found in the second person in poetry and early Latin, but it is not very common.

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Other Independent Uses of the Subjunctive

The Hortatory Subjunctive and other uses of the subjunctive as main verbs are summarized in the following table. The first three uses are negated with *ne*, the last two with *non*. The hortatory subjunctive is included in the table for comparison.

Type	Use	Translation	Latin with English translation
Hortatory	Command (usually 1st and 3rd person)	"Let…." (present)	*fugiam* Let me flee *ne fugiam* Let me not flee *fugiat* Let him flee *ne fugiat* Let him not flee
		"should have" (imperfect or pluperfect)	*ne fugissent* She should not have fled
	Concession for an argument	"Granted that…."	*fugiat* Granted that she is fleeing *ne fugiat* Granted that he is not fleeing *fugeret* Granted that he was fleeing *ne fugeret* Granted that she was not fleeing
Optative	Expresses a wish	"If only..."	*utinam* (or *ut*) *fugiat* If only he would flee! *ne fugiat* If only she would not flee! *utinam* (or *ut*) *fugisset* If only he had fled! *ne fugisset* If only he had not fled!
		"Would that…"	*utinam* (or *ut*) *fugeret* Would that she were fleeing! *ne fugeret* Would that he were not fleeing!

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Potential	Possibility of an action	"...may…" (present) "...might…." (imperfect)	*fugiat* He may flee *non fugiat* She may not flee *fugeret* She might have fled *non fugeret* He might not have fled
Deliberative	Deliberating about something, often as rhetorical question	"Should….?"	*fugiat*? Should she flee? *non fugiat*? Should he not flee? *fugeret*? Should he have fled? *non fugeret*? Should she not have fled?

Uses of the Subjunctive in Dependent Clauses

Subjunctives in Indirect Speech

In **Unit 6** you learned about Indirect Statements. These are introduced by "verbs of the head" and are followed by an accusative and infinitive construction. However, when verbs of asking, commanding, or fearing introduce an indirect idea, a subjunctive verb is used in the dependent clause..

1. Verbs of commanding will be followed by an **Indirect Command** (*ut/ne* + Subjunctive)
2. Verbs of asking will be followed by an **Indirect Question** (Interrogative + Subjunctive)
3. Verbs of fearing will be followed by a **Fearing Clause** (*ne/ut* or *ne non* + Subjunctive)

These uses of the subjunctive will be easily identified, as they are introduced by specific types of verbs in the main clause.

Indirect Commands

Indirect Commands are introduced by verbs of ordering and commanding such as *impero, hortor, moneo, oro*, etc. The main clause will be followed by *ut* (positive command) or *ne* (negative command) with a subjunctive in a tense according to the **Sequence of Tenses**. The simplest way to

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translate an indirect command is as an infinitive. The *ut/ne* + subjunctive verb could be represented as "to…". See the examples below:

*Imperat militibus **ut** urbem **capiant**.*
He orders the soldiers **to seize** the city.

*Monui regem **ne** hostes **conveniret**.*
I warned the king **not to meet** the enemy.

You can also translate the *ut* or *ne* as "that" or "that not," especially when the subject of the Indirect Command is different from the person receiving the command.

*Hortatur milites **ut** urbs hostium **servetur**.*
She urges the soldiers **that** the city of the enemy **be saved**.

*Monuit populum **ne** impetus **faceretur**.*
He advised the people **that** an attack **was not being made**.

Indirect Questions

Indirect Questions are introduced by verbs of asking and questioning such as *rogo, quaero, interrogo, scio, nescio, cognosco*, etc. Any interrogative word can begin an Indirect Question (e.g. *quis, quid, ubi, -ne, cur*, *unde*, etc.), and it will be followed by a subjunctive in a tense according to the **Sequence of Tenses**. However, when the action in the question happens after the main verb, the **future periphrastic** will be used. The future periphrastic is made of the future active participle with a present or imperfect subjunctive form of *sum, esse, fui, futurum*. In essence, it provides a form to fill in for the use of future subjunctive, which does not exist in Latin. Study the examples below:

Primary Sequence

*Rogo **quis** iniuriam **inferat**.*
I ask **who commits** the injustice. (simultaneous)

*Rogo **quis** iniuriam **intulerit**.*
I ask **who commited** the injustice. (prior)

*Rogo **quis** iniuriam **illaturus sit**.*
I ask **who will commit** the injustice. (future)
(Literally, "**who is about to commit**" the injustice)

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Secondary Sequence

*Rogavi **quis** iniuriam **inferret**.*
I asked **who was committing** the injustice. (simultaneous)

*Rogavi **quis** iniuriam **intulisset**.*
I asked **who had committed** the injustice. (prior)

*Rogavi **quis** iniuriam **illaturus esset**.*
I asked **who was going to commit** the injustice. (future)
(Literally, "who was about to commit" the injustice)
(Notice the use of the imperfect subjunctive of *sum* as we are in secondary sequence.)

Fearing Clauses

Fearing Clauses are introduced by verbs such as *timeo, metuo, vereor*, etc and followed by *ne* for the affirmative ("that") and *ut* or *ne…non* for the negative ("that…not"). Fearing clauses come from independent prohibitions. "I am afraid. May the king not (*ne*) seize the city!" becomes "I fear that the king may seize the city." "I am afraid. May the people (*ut*) listen!" becomes "I fear that the people may not listen." Study the examples below:

*Timeo **ne** rex urbem **occupet**.*
I fear **that** the king **may seize** the city.

*Vereor **ut** populus **audiat**.*
*Vereor **ne non** populus **audiat**.*
I fear **that** the people **may not listen**.

Remember that unlike the other subjunctive constructions, *ne* means "that" while *ut*/*ne non* means "that not." This reversal in translations is unique to fearing clauses.

The Dative Case

Review of Uses of the Dative

In **Unit 1**, you learned that the dative is used as the **indirect object**. The indirect object usually occurs with verbs of giving, showing, and telling. For this reason, we usually translate the dative using "to" or "for" in English:

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*Aelia librum **fratri** dat.*
Aelia gives the book **to her brother**.

In addition to these uses, you have learned certain verbs that take the dative: *prosum*, *licet*, *committo*, *studeo*, *parco* etc.

In this Unit, you will learn other verbs that take the dative, as well as how the dative is used with compound verbs.

Dative with Special Verbs

Certain verbs will take a dative object, instead of an accusative. This is often because the direct object is implied in the meaning of the verb. These verbs can be broken down into a verb of giving, showing, or telling with an implied direct object and a dative of person affected:

parco - to spare > to give mercy + dative
pareo - to obey > to show obedience + dative
minor - to threaten > to speak a threat + dative

These verbs will be identified for you in the Verba with (+ dat.). Verbs that take the dative often have one of the following meanings: favor, help, please, trust, believe, persuade, command, obey, serve, resist, envy, threaten, pardon, or spare.

Dative with Compound Verbs

As we have learned new verbs, you may have noticed that some of these compound verbs will take the dative case. **Verbs that combine with the following prepositions** will often take the dative:

ad	*ante*	*con*
in	*inter*	*ob*
post	*prae*	*pro*
sub	*super*	sometimes *circum* and *re*

It is important to stress that not all compounds using these prepositions will take the dative. There are two ways to tell if the verb will take the dative (aside from checking the dictionary):

1. The meaning of the verb changes significantly from the root verb.
   For example: *intersum* means “to be among.” When used with this meaning, it takes an accusative direct object. When it means “to take part in,” it will take the dative case, as the meaning is significantly different from the root verb *sum*.

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2. The dative acts as the object of the preposition included in the verb, and the accusative is the object of the root verb.
   For example: *infero* means “to bring upon;” the root verb is *fero* and the preposition is *in*. “To bring something upon someone” would be constructed as “to bring accusative upon dative.” So “to bring war upon the people" is *inferre bellum populo*.

Cardinal and Ordinal Numbers

Cardinal Numbers

Latin Cardinal Numbers: Latin numbers are adjectives, meaning that they should have a masculine, feminine, and neuter form that agrees with the case of the noun they modify. However, only a few numbers have endings that distinguish case and gender: 1-3, 200-900, and 2000-9000, as shown below.

N.B. As to be expected, there is no singular form for most numbers and no plural form for the number 1 (*unus, -a, -um*), which you already learned as one of the **special -ius adjectives**).

Here are the paradigms for irregular *duo, duae, duo* (2) and *tres, tria* (3):

Plural Only	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nom	duo	duae	duo
Gen	duorum	duarum	duorum
Dat	duobus	duabus	duobus
Acc	duos	duas	duo
Abl	duobus	duabus	duobus

Plural Only	Masculine/Feminine	Neuter
Nom	tres	tria
Gen	trium	trium
Dat	tribus	tribus
Acc	tres	tria
Abl	tribus	tribus

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Cardinal Numbers

1- unus, -a, -um	11 - undecim	21 - viginti unus, -a, -um	200 - ducenti, -ae, -a
2 - duo, duae, duo	12 - duodecim	30 - triginta	300 - trecenti, -ae, -a
3 - tres, tria	13 - tredecim	40 - quadraginta	400 - quadrigenti, -ae, -a
4 - quattuor	14 - quattuordecim	50 - quinquaginta	500 - quingenti, -ae, -a
5 - quinque	15 - quindecim	60 - sexaginta	600 - sescenti, -ae, -a
6 - sex	16 - sedecim	70 - septuaginta	700 - septingenti, -ae, -a
7 - septem	17 - septendecim	80 - octoginta	800 - octingenti, -ae, -a
8 - octo	18 - duodeviginti	90 - nonaginta	900 - nongenti, -ae, -a
9 - novem	19 - undeviginti	100 - centum	1000 - mille
10 - decem	20 - viginti		2000 - duo milia

N.B. milia in the plural declines like a neuter second declension adjective and is followed by a genitive—*e.g.* two thousand (of) people = *duo milia hominum.*

Ordinal Numbers

Latin Ordinal Numbers: These are adjectives that tell you the position of something in a list corresponding to English “first,” “second,” “third,” etc. In Latin, they decline like first and second declension adjectives. Below is a list of the Latin words for first through tenth.

first - primus, -a, -um
second - secundus, -a, -um
third - tertius, -a, -um
fourth - quartus, -a, -um
fifth - quintus, -a, -um
sixth - sextus, -a, -um
seventh - septimus, -a, -um
eighth - octavus, -a, -um
ninth - nonus, -a, -um
tenth - decimus, -a, -um

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