

# Chapter 29

**RULE 1:** Imperfect Subjunctive = Present Active Infinitive + Personal Endings

**RULE 2:** There is no future subjunctive.

**RULE 3:** The base of the present subjunctive of *esse* is *si-*.

**RULE 4:** Result Clauses are anticipated by "sign words" (e.g. *tam*, *talīs*, *tantus*, *ita* or *sic* [also *tot*, Chapter 40]) and introduced by *ut* or *ut non* (*nemo*, *nihil*, etc.).

## I. Grammar

### A. The Imperfect Subjunctive

Wheelock is right that the imperfect subjunctive is the easiest of the subjunctives to recognize and form: merely the second principal part plus personal endings. No exceptions, no irregularities, but you should know that the imperfect subjunctive is not in origin that astounding oxymoron, an *infinitive* ("no endings") with endings.

Originally, it's a combination of the subjunctive marker *-se-* + personal endings, seen in its pure form in **essem**. In most verbs, the *-s-* fell between vowels (e.g. *\*-ase-*, *\*-ese-*) and therefore rhotacized, *-are-*, *-ere-*. The base was identical to the infinitive except that the *-ê-* of the subjunctive was long (*-rê-*) and that of the infinitive was short (*-re* < *\*-si*, originally the dative singular of an *s*-stem noun, see [Chapter 1](#)). The origin of *-se* is disputed but it may have been an *s*-aorist stem with the *e*-marker seen in both the first-conjugation subjunctive and the third- and fourth-conjugation future. The *-s-* marked the past tense (cf. **scripsi**) and *-e-* the future/subjunctive, making the form in origin another oxymoron, a future-past form.

### B. No Future Subjunctive!

Since the subjunctive and the future are cognate and in many ways address different aspects of the same thing—that is, future events and upcoming possibilities—a "future subjunctive" would be at once redundant and contradictory. That is, both express futurity, but one as a certainty and the other as only a possibility. That exempts any "future subjunctive," and neither Latin nor Greek has one.

### C. Subjunctive of *Esse*

The present base of the subjunctive of *esse* is *si-*, rendering the predictable *sim*, *sis*, *sit*, etc. The imperfect is the infinitive *esse* plus personal endings. The distinctive *-i-* is one of the last remaining traces of the Indo-European optative in Latin, seen also in **velim**, **edim** and the perfect subjunctive (see [Chapter 30](#)). The older forms of the present subjunctive of *esse*—*siem*, *sies*, *siet*, *simus*, *sitis*, *sient*—show the old gradation *yê* in the singular and *î* in the plural which later regularized to *-i-* throughout, cf. the Greek optative forms *eiên* (first singular) vs. *eimen* (first plural). Click [here](#) for a worksheet on these forms.

### D. Result Clauses

There are three basic ingredients in a result clause:

1. a correlative or, as Wheelock calls it, a "sign word." Students should learn five, although Wheelock introduces only three: *tam*, *talīs*, *tantus*, *ita*, *sic* [also *tot*, [Chapter 40](#)];
2. the subordinating conjunction *ut* or *ut non*, *ut nihil*, *ut numquam* (or any negator but *ne*) which introduces the clause;

3. and a subjunctive verb inside the clause.

A "sign word" is not absolutely obligatory in Latin result clauses (see Wheelock's last example on p.137), but for our purposes you may tell students that they can expect a "sign word" with all result clauses. Note that in sentences and examples Wheelock carefully directs students toward the proper tenses of the subjunctive without teaching them sequence of tenses (see [Chapter 30](#)). From the perspective of historical linguistics, with the nearly universal application of *ut* to subjunctives Latin lost the ability to distinguish between actual result ("I was so tired that I fell asleep.") and potential result ("I was so tired that I could have fallen asleep."), as other languages like English and Greek can do.

## II. Vocabulary

- **mens:** This noun is related to the same base which produces *memini* and *memor*. It utilizes the *-ti-* suffix seen also in *vestis*, *hostis*, and *pars* (*partis*) and Greek *pistis* and *basis* (here, as *-si-*).
- **miles:** = *milet-* + *-s* (third-declension nominative singular) > *\*miless* (Plautus sometimes treats the final syllable as long) > *miles*. The word may be of Etruscan origin, like *veles*, *velitis* ("a light-armed soldier"), although that derivation is far from clear. Outside of words like *satelles* "bodyguard" and some other mostly military, religious and everyday vocabulary, the Etruscan language made less impact than one might expect from the Etruscans' early domination of Rome.
- **tantus:** = *tam* ("so") + *-t-* (adjective suffix), cf. its correlative *quantus* = *quam* + *-t-*. *Tan-dem* is another compound of *tam*; *-dem* comes from a pronominal stem *\*do-*, seen in Gk. *-de* and *-don*. *Tantus* is a "sign word" for result clauses.
- **ita:lta** is correlative to *ut* (or *uta*, cf. *aliuta* "otherwise"), "as . . . thus."
- **sic:** = *\*sei* + *-ce* (the deictic particle; see [Chapter 9](#)), making *sic*, in origin, the locative of the Indo-European demonstrative pronoun *\*so*, *\*sâ*, *\*tod*.
- **tam:** *Tam* originates as the accusative singular feminine demonstrative, which later became an adverb, cf. *clam*, *palam*, *coram*, *iam*, *nam*, *quam*; Greek *makran*, *peran*. The demonstrative base *\*to-* derives from Indo-European *\*so*, *\*sa*, *\*tod*; cf. *sic* and *tum* ([Chapter 5](#)).
- **NOTE:** Add to this vocabulary list, *talis*, *tale* "of such quality, such, so." This rounds out the list of "sign words" for result clauses. *Talis* shares the adjective suffix *-alis* with its correlative *qualis* ("of what quality, what sort"), *talis* exhibiting the demonstrative base *t-* and *qualis* the interrogative-relative base *qu-*.
- **quidem:** Warn students not to confuse *quidem* "certainly" and *quidam* "someone." [*Quidem* = the interrogative/relative stem *qui(d)* + the particle *-em*.] Also, call to the students' attention the idiom *neXquidem* ("not even X, not X even"). The *ne* of this idiom can mislead one to expect a negative purpose clause or the like.
- **disco:** This verb means "learn", not "teach"! For some reason, students seem to confuse these meanings often. [*Disco* = *\*di-* (reduplication with *-i-* in the present tense, cf. *gigno*) + base *-dk-* (zero grade of the base seen also in *decet* and *doceo*, cf. perfect *didici*) + *-sk-* (the "inchoative" suffix showing the beginning of an action, cf. *nosco*, *creasco*). It is unclear why *\*di-dk-sk-o* became *disco*, cf. Greek *didasko*.]

## III. Sentences

In the Practice and Review there are only two result clauses with the expected "sign word" (sentences 7 and 9), which means it is advisable to take full advantage of the sentences with result clauses in the *Sententiae Antiquae* (all except 1 and 8; 11 has a result clause without a "sign word").

## IV. QUIZ 3

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#### NOMEN TUUM

#### I. Fill in the following blanks with the correct answers. (10 pts.)

1. Give the (thematic) vowels which mark the subjunctive in the following conjugations.

| Conjugation | Vowel | Conjugation | Vowel |
|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| FIRST       | _____ | THIRD       | _____ |
| SECOND      | _____ | FOURTH      | _____ |

2. The imperfect subjunctive is formed by adding \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ (tense/mood).

3. To negate a *purpose* clause Latin uses \_\_\_\_\_; to negate a *result* clause it uses \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Give two (of the five) words that signal a result clause (Wheelock calls them "sign words").

**II. Translate the following verbs. Put "S" to the left of all subjunctive forms. (30 pts.)**

1. sis
2. tangant
3. nuntiantur
4. peteris
5. contineres
6. appellent
7. premar
8. rapietur
9. audiris
10. audires

**III. Fill in the blanks with the correct vocabulary forms of the Latin words below. Give the NOMINATIVE, GENITIVE, and GENDER of nouns, and the PRINCIPAL PARTS (PRESENT INDICATIVE, PRESENT INFINITIVE, PERFECT INDICATIVE, PERFECT PARTICIPLE) of verbs. For adjectives, give the NOMINATIVE forms. (10 pts.)**

1. soldier
2. yield
3. arms
4. indeed