The 3 Independent Uses of the Subjunctive
2 Steps to Mastering the Subjunctive Mood

- First, we must learn the forms (which are fairly simple)
- Second, we must learn to recognize and translate the various subjunctive clause types, which is also easily done, if your approach is systematic
- For each type of subjunctive clause we learn, you should catalogue in your notebooks three details:
  1. Its definition
  2. How to recognize it in a Latin sentence
  3. How to translate it into English
Independent Uses of the Subjunctive

- As the term “subjunctive” (Lat. *subiungere*, to join with/under, to subordinate) suggests, the subjunctive was used chiefly in *subordinate*, or *dependent*, clauses...

- However, the subjunctive was also employed in certain types of *main*, or *independent*, clauses:
  - The HORTATORY and JUSSIVE subjunctive
  - The POTENTIAL subjunctive
  - The OPTATIVE subjunctive
The Hortatory and Jussive Subjunctive

- The hortatory subjunctive (Lat. *hortari*, to exhort, to encourage) or the jussive subjunctive (Lat. *iubēre*, to order) are both used in the same way as the imperative mood...

- So what do you think they express?
1. Defining the Hortatory and Jussive Subjunctive

- The hortatory subjunctive is used to express a strong suggestion or exhortation in the **FIRST PERSON**.

- The jussive subjunctive is used to express a strong suggestion or exhortation in the **SECOND or THIRD PERSON**.

- So then, both the Hortatory and Jussive subjunctives are defined as an address or communication emphatically urging someone to do something.
2. Recognizing the Hortatory and Jussive Subjunctive

- *Romam eamus* [Let us go to Rome.]
  - *eamus* is present, subjunctive, 1st person, plural & is expressing an exhortation ➞ HORTATORY

- *Ne ex urbe discedat* [Do not let him depart from the city]
  - *discedat* is present, subjunctive, 3rd person, singular & is expressing a negative suggestion ➞ JUSSIVE
2. Recognizing the Hortatory and Jussive Subjunctive

- In Latin, the adverb **NE** is used to negate Hortatory and Jussive subjunctives.
- When preceded by *ne*, 2nd person Sing/Pl present or perfect Jussive subjunctives express a negative command:
  - *Ne labores*, serve!
  - *Ne ab hostibus capti sitis!*
3. Translating the Hortatory and Jussive Subjunctive

- In English, the Hortatory and Jussive is often expressed as “Let…” “Do not let…” “Do Not”

- N.B., the Jussive subjunctive in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} person without \textit{ne} is equivalent to a positive imperative
  - When preceded by \textit{ne}, 2\textsuperscript{nd} person Sing/Pl present or perfect Jussive subjunctives express a negative command
1. Defining the Potential Subjunctive

- The potential subjunctive (Lat., participle of possum: potens, to be able, have power) expresses a possibility in the past, present or future time.
2. Recognizing the Potential Subjunctive

- To express a possibility in the present or future time, you must use the present or perfect subjunctive
  - *Romae multa videas* [You could see many things in Rome]
  - *Id non fecerim* [I would not do this]
- To express a possibility in past time, you must use the imperfect subjunctive
  - *Domum venirent* [They might have come home]
- To negate a Potential subjunctive, the adverb **NON** must be used
Simple or Completed Aspect

- While the **TENSE** of a verb tells *when* an action occurs, the **ASPECT** of a verb tells *how* that action is distributed through time
  - Is the action instantaneous, gradual, repetitive, just beginning, or none of these? Aspect answers that question!
- Most languages have no clear way of indicating aspect but hint at it through their uses of tenses, adverbs, and various other grammatical constructions.
- Our main concern for the Subjunctive is that the **PERFECT** tense has **SIMPLE ASPECT**...that is, the action is **NOT YET COMPLETED**.
3. Translating the Potential Subjunctive

- When translating potential subjunctives from Latin to English, the appropriate auxiliary verbs are...
  - **Present/Perfect Subjunctive:** “might,” “could,” “would”
  - **Imperfect Subjunctive:** “might have,” “could have,” “would have”
  - **Negative Potentiality:** In English, negative potential subjunctives must be translated as “would not/ would not have” or “could not/ could not have”...DO NOT USE “MIGHT” since the possibility of the verbal action is denied
1. Defining The Optative Subjunctive

- The optative subjunctive (Lat. *optare*, to wish, to desire) expresses a wish that can (or cannot) be fulfilled in the past, present, or future time.
2. Recognizing the Optative Subjunctive

- A verb in the **present subjunctive** may express a wish that *can* be fulfilled in the **future**.
- A verb in the **imperfect subjunctive** may express a wish that *cannot* be fulfilled in the **present**.
- A verb in the **pluperfect subjunctive** may express a wish that *could not* be fulfilled in the **past**.
- A common clause marker for the potential subjunctive is **UTINAM** (“If only…”)
- To **NEGATE** a potential subjunctive, the adverb **NE** must be used
3. Translating the Optative Subjunctive

- Future Wish Capable of Fulfillment
  - \([\text{Utinam}] \text{ milites nostri inimicos superent!}\)
  - “If only our soldiers would conquer the enemy!” OR “May our soldiers conquer the enemy!”

- Present Wish Incapable of Fulfillment
  - \(\text{Romae viverem!}\)
  - “If only I were living in Rome!

- Past Wish Incapable of Fulfillment
  - \(\text{Ne id egisset!}\)
  - “If only he had not done it!”
3. Translating the Optative Subjunctive

- Future Wish Capable of Fulfillment with Present Subjunctive
  - “If only...would...”

- Present Wish Incapable of Fulfillment with Imperfect Subjunctive
  - “If only...were...”

- Past Wish Incapable of Fulfillment
  - “If only...had...”
Let me go to the movies.
  Hortatory (Positive)

Let us not tease bears.
  Hortatory (Negative)

Let him go to the movies.
  Jussive (Positive)

Let them not tease bears.
  Jussive (Negative)
Practice

» You could be a star!
  » Potential

» If only the test would be postponed!
  » Optative

» Let me go!
  » Hortatory (Positive)

» Don’t let him worry about what might have been.
  » Jussive (Negative)