The Subjunctive Mood

*Mood* is defined as the purpose served by the verb or verbal in its context. There are five (5) moods in Latin II:

1. The *indicative* mood verb is finite (i.e., has a personal ending), and expresses a *factual* action.

2. The *infinitive* has no personal endings; it supports or completes the main verb; when an infinitive has its own subject, that subject is in the accusative case.

3. The *imperative* mood is a direct command.

4. The *participles* (perfect, present, future) have case endings instead of personal endings; they and their phrases replace or abbreviate subordinate clauses.

5. The *subjunctive* mood verb is finite; instead of stating a fact, it states either *potential* (possibility) or *non-fact*. Helping verbs are *may*, *might*, *would*, *may have*, *might have*, *would have*. 
Potential Action—

The enemy soldiers *may attack* our camp.

[Then again, they may not.]

Non-factual Action—

If only I *had worked* harder, I *would have* done better.

[--but I didn’t;] [--so I didn’t.]

The Present Subjunctive

The subjunctive mood is largely extinct in English now. Since Latin syntax frequently used the subjunctive, however, it must be understood for purposes of correct translation.

The Present Subjunctive is expressed in English usually by the use of the helping verb *may*. It is almost always used for the verb in a subordinate clause, although there is one use for the present subjunctive as the Main Verb.
The Hortatory Subjunctive

When the main verb expresses an urging or exhortation, the present subjunctive is used, and the helping verb precedes the subject noun or pronoun. This is known as the hortatory subjunctive (hortor, -ari, encourage).

*May* I be elected ruler.

*May* you travel safely.

*Let* us visit the king.

The Present Subjunctive in Subordinate Clauses

Caesar **is going** to Gaul [in order that he **may attack** the enemies.]

[indicative=fact] [subjunctive=potential]
Formation of the Latin Present Subjunctive

For regular verbs, the Present Subjunctive in Latin is distinguished from the Present Indicative by a change in the fundamental conjugation vowel which precedes the personal ending.

First Conjugation: -a- becomes -e-
Second Conjugation: -e- becomes -ea-
Third Conjugation: -o, -i-, -u- become -a-
Third –io and Fourth Conjugations: -io, -i-, -iu- become -ia-

*NOTA BENE:* These vowel changes can be easily remembered by the mnemonic *WE FEAR A LIAR.*

(1) (2) (3) (3/-io, 4)
Present Subjunctive Active

voco, -are, call

vocem I may call, let me call
voces you may call, may you call
vocet he may call, may he call, let him call
vocemus we may call, let us call, may we call
vocetis you may call, may you call
vocent they may call, may they call, let them call

moneo, -ere, warn

moneam, moneas, moneat, moneamus, moneatis, moneant

rego, -ere, rule

regam, regas, regat, regamus, regatis, regant
capio, -ere, *take*
capiam, capias, capiat, capiamus, capiatis, capiant

audio, -ire, *hear*
audiam, audias, audiat, audiamus, audiatis, audiant

### Present Subjunctive of Irregular Verbs

Of the irregular verbs, most adapt to the rule *WE FEAR A LIAR*, and follow the third conjugation pattern (-a-):

eo, ire, *go*: eam, eas, eat, eamus, eatis, eant
fero, ferre, *carry*: feram, feras, ferat, feramus, feratis, ferant
fio, fieri, *be done*: fiam, fias, fiat, fiamus, fiatis, fiant
The irregular verbs *sum*, *esse* (and their compounds) and *volo*, *velle* (and therefore *nolo*, *nolle* and *malo*, *malle*) have irregular Present Subjunctive formations which must be memorized:

- **sum, esse, be:** sim, sis, sit, simus, sitis, sint
- **possum, posse, be able:** possim, possis, possit, possimus, possitis, possint
- **volo, velle, wish:** velim, velis, velit, velimus, velitis, velint
- **nolo, nolle, be unwilling:** nolim, nolis, nolit, nolimus, nolitis, nolint
Present Subjunctive, Passive Voice

The Passive Voice of the Present Subjunctive follows the same rule as the Active, with the exception that the Passive endings are used.

vocer  I may be called, may I be called, let me be called
voceris  you may be called, may you be called
vocetur  he may be called, may he be called, let him be called
vocemur  we may be called, may we be called, let us be called
vocemini  you may be called, may you be called
vocentur  they may be called, may they be called, let them be called
monear, monearis, moneatur, moneamur, moneamini, moneantur
regar, regaris, regatur, regamur, regamini, regantur
capiar, capiaris, capiatur, capiamur, capiamini, capiantur
audiar, audiaris, audiatur, audiamur, audiamini, audiantur
Quiz #2: The vocabulary list on Page 85. *N.B.*: There are many verbs.