The Imperfect Subjunctive

The imperfect tense of the subjunctive expresses *potential action* or *non-factual action* from the viewpoint of the past tense. In English, the helping verbs *might* and *would* are used to express the imperfect subjunctive.

In Latin, the imperfect subjunctive is almost always used in a subordinate clause; there is no hortatory subjunctive which uses the imperfect tense.

Caesar *went* to Gaul in order that he *might attack* the enemies.

[indicative=fact]                     [subjunctive=potential]

Formation of the Imperfect Subjunctive

The Imperfect Subjunctive is the simplest tense of the subjunctive to form. It is the second principal part of any verb, to which is added the personal endings.
voco, -are, *call:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infinitive</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vocarem</td>
<td>I might call, I would call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vocares</td>
<td>you might call, you would call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vocaret</td>
<td>he might call, he would call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vocaremus</td>
<td>we might call, we would call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vocaremus</td>
<td>you might call, you would call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vocarent</td>
<td>they might call, they would call</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

__________________________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infinitive</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vocarer</td>
<td>I might be called, I would be called</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocareris</td>
<td>you might be called, you would be called</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocaretur</td>
<td>he might be called, he would be called</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocaremur</td>
<td>we might be called, we would be called</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocaremini</td>
<td>you might be called, you would be called</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocarentur</td>
<td>they might be called, they would be called</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
moneo, -ere, warn:
A = monerem, moneres, moneret, moneremus, moneretis, monerent;
P = monerer, monereris, moneretur, moneremur, moneremini, monerentur

rego, -ere, rule:
A = regerem, regeres, regeret, regeremus, regeretis, regerent;
P = regerer, regereris, regeretur, regeremur, regeremini, regerentur

capio, -ere, take:
A = caperem, caperes, caperet, caperemus, caperetis, caperent;
P = caperer, capereris, caperetur, caperemur, caperemini, caperentur
audio, -ire, hear:
A = audirem, audires, audiret, audiremus, audiretis, audirent;
P = audirer, audireris, audiretur, audiremur, audiremini, audirentur

Imperfect Subjunctive of Irregular Verbs
sum, esse, be: essem, etc.
possum, posse, be able: possem, etc.
eo, ire, go: irem, etc.
fero, ferre, carry: ferrem, etc.
*fio, fieri, be done: fierem, etc.*
Deponent Verbs

Deponent verbs pose a small problem when forming the Imperfect Subjunctive. Since they are classed as regular verbs, deponent verbs must show –re- in the imperfect subjunctive.

Therefore, the second principal part must be modified in order to do so:

conor, conari, try: conari → conare- + passive endings

conarer, conareris, conaretur, conaremur, conaremmini, conarentur

vereor, vereri, fear: vereri → verere- + passive endings

vererer, verereris, vereretur, vereremur, vereremmini, vererentur

sequor, sequi, follow: sequi → sequere- + passive endings

sequerer, sequereris, sequeretur, sequeremur, sequeremini, sequerentur
patior, pati, *suffer*: pati → patere- + passive endings
paterer, patereris, pateretur, pateremur, pateremini, paterentur

largior, largiri, *bestow*: largiri → largire- + passive endings
largirer, largireris, largiretur, largiremur, largiremini, largirentur

Quiz #3: The vocabulary list on Page 85.