

The Subjunctive in Subordinate Clauses

For now, you will be encountering the subjunctive in three types of subordinate clauses:

1. After *cum* meaning “when” (**cum circumstantial clause**):

- *Cum casam intrāvisset, custōdem pūgiōne percussit.*
- *When he had entered the hut, he struck the guard with a dagger.*

2. After *cum* meaning “since/because” (**cum causal clause**):

- *Magister nāvis, cum pīrātās timēret, dē patre Valerīū vēra dīcere cōstituit.*
- *The captain of the ship, since he feared the pirates, decided to tell the truth about Valerius.*

3. After a question word (**indirect question**):

- *Pīrātae rogābant quī essēmus et unde vēnissēmus.*
- *The pirates were asking who we were and from where we had come.*

Common Question Words:

- *Quis?* - Who? (pl: *Quī?*)
- *Quid?* - What? (pl: *Quae?*)
- *Cūr?* - Why?
- *Quandō?* - When?
- *Ubi?* - Where?
- *Quō?* - Where to?
- *Unde?* - Where from?
- *Quot?* - How many?
- *Quōmodo?* - How?
- *Qualis?* - What kind of?

Cum + indicative = “when”

Note: *cum* can also be used with an indicative verb. This is called a “*cum* temporal” clause. In a *cum* temporal clause, *cum* always means “when” and simply indicates the time when something happened, whereas *cum* + a subjunctive verb emphasizes the circumstances