

Indirect Questions in Latin: Examples

* An indirect question usually starts with an **interrogative word**, e.g., an, cur, ne, num, quae, qualis, quam, quamobrem, quando, quantus, quare, quemadmodum, qui, quid, quis, quo, quod, quomodo, quot, quotus, si, ubi, unde, ut, uter, utrum.

* The verb in an indirect question is translated with an **indicative verb in English**: there is no need to put *should, may, or might* into the translation for the subjunctive. Nescio quid consul sit. = "I do not know what a consul **is**." [**NOT**: "I do not know what a consul **may be**."]

Tenses in Indirect Question Clauses: After a present or future tense, you can only pick from PRESENT OR PERFECT subjunctive tenses. After a past tense, you only pick from IMPERFECT OR PLUPERFECT.

ACTIVE VOICE EXAMPLES

Videô quid **laudês**. = I see what you are praising.

Videô quid **laudâveris**. = I see what you praised.

Vîdî quid **laudârês**. = I saw what you were praising.

Vîdî quid **laudâvissês**. = I saw what you had praised.

PASSIVE VOICE EXAMPLES

Videô quid **laudêtur**. = I see what is being praised.

Videô quid **laudâtum sit**. = I see what was praised.

Vîdî quid **laudârêtur**. = I saw what was being praised.

Vîdî quid **laudâtum esset**. = I saw what had been praised.

MAIN CLAUSE TIME	SUBJUNCTIVE TENSE
present: videô	present
present: videô	perfect
past: vîdî	imperfect
past: vîdî	pluperfect
present: videô	present
present: videô	perfect
past: vîdî	imperfect
past: vîdî	pluperfect

An exception: Sometimes the PERFECT TENSE, also called the PRESENT PERFECT, is treated as a PRESENT tense rather than as a PAST one: "I have seen" vs. "I saw."

Conventional translation equivalents for the subjunctive tenses: these meanings are not always the most appropriate translations in a given context; they are merely a way of *calling for or understanding the given tense-form*:

let x love	amet	jussive subjunctive
let x be loved	amêtur	jussive subjunctive
[I ask what] x has loved	amâverit	NOTE the form: perfect and active, starts with perfect stem amav-
[I ask what] has been loved	amâtus sit	NOTE the form: perfect and passive, two words, starts with 4th principal part
x would love	amâret	As in the expression, "If x were here, x would love this."
x would be loved	amârêtur	As in the expression, "I x were here, x would be loved ."
x would have loved	amâvisset	As in the expression, "If x had been here, x would have loved this." NOTE the form: perfect and active, starts with perfect stem amav-
x would have been loved	amâtus esset	As in the expression, "If x had been here, x would have been loved ." NOTE the form: perfect and passive, two words, starts with 4th principal part