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# IT212 GRAMMAR

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Past Subjunctive + Revision

# Today's class

- Lecture: Imperfect and Past Perfect Subjunctive
- *Exercises on Subjunctive (in pairs or groups)*
- Lecture: Indefinite Pronouns
- *Reading Week: Congiuntivo imperfetto e trapassato (Imperfect and Past Perfect Subjunctive)*

# Congiuntivo

- There are **FOUR** forms of the subjunctive in ITALIAN
- PRESENTE (present)
- PASSATO (past)
- IMPERFETTO (imperfect)
- TRAPASSATO (past perfect)

# Congiuntivo (*Subjunctive*)

- In ITALIAN, the subjunctive is used **more frequently**.
- The subjunctive is also found after
- Verbs of opinion – **PENSARE, CREDERE, SEMBRARE, PARERE**
- **Pensiamo che** *mamma abbia ragione*  
We think that mother is right
- Verbs of emotion – **TEMERE**
- **Temo che** *Marco non arrivi in tempo*  
I am afraid that Marco will not arrive on time
- Verbs of wish, command – **VOLERE, ORDINARE, SPERARE**
- Teresa **vuole che** *il marito cucini*  
Teresa wants her husband to cook
- **È essenziale che tu vada** *subito a farti vedere dal medico*  
it's essential that you go to see a doctor
- Verbs of doubt – **DUBITARE, SUPPORRE, NON ESSERE SICURO, SEMBRARE**
- **Dubito che** *vinciate la partita*  
I doubt that you will win the game
- Impersonal verbs or expressions + **che** + subjunctive
- **Sembra che** *i miei amici partano per l'Europa*  
It seems that my friends are leaving soon for Europe
- **È possibile che** *papa compri una macchina nuova*  
It is possible that Dad will buy a new car

# Subjunctive (*imperfect* - imperfetto)

- It is formed from the imperfect indicative

- **Conjugation - Regular**

Prima coniugazione: <i>parlare</i>	Seconda coniugazione: <i>ricevere</i>	Terza coniugazione: <i>dormire</i>
io parlassi	io riceve <b>ssi</b>	io dormi <b>ssi</b>
tu parlassi	tu riceve <b>ssi</b>	tu dormi <b>ssi</b>
lei/lui parlasse <b>e</b>	lei/lui ricevesse <b>e</b>	lei/lui dormisse <b>e</b>
noi parlassimo	noi riceve <b>ssimo</b>	noi dormi <b>ssimo</b>
voi parlaste	voi riceve <b>ste</b>	voi dormi <b>ste</b>
essi/loro parlassero	essi/loro riceve <b>ssero</b>	essi/loro dormi <b>ssero</b>

- **Conjugation - Irregular page 176 *Italian Grammar in Practice***

# Subjunctive (*past perfect* - *trapassato*)

- In ITALIAN, the **PAST PERFECT subjunctive** is formed with
- the **imperfect subjunctive** of **avere** and **essere**
- **+ past participle** of the verb
- **As with the *passato prossimo*, you need to identify the right auxiliary and past participle**

essere	avere
io fossi	io avessi
tu fossi	tu avessi
lei/lui fosse	lei/lui avesse
noi fossimo	noi avessimo
voi foste	voi aveste
Loro/essi fossero	loro/essi avessero

**+ past participle**

- **Past participles - Irregular page 73 *Italian Grammar in Practice***

# Auxiliaries

- Guidelines to choose the correct **auxiliary**
  - *All transitive verbs* (the verbs which can take a direct object) use **avere**
  - *All reflexive verbs* use **essere**
  - *Intransitive verbs* (the verbs which do not take a direct object) can use either **essere** or **avere**
  - *A basic list of verbs that take 'essere' are:*
    - *Verbs of movement:* andare; arrivare; partire; entrare; uscire;
    - Verbs of 'existence': morire; nascere; essere;
    - Other verbs: piacere; parere; sembrare
  - When the auxiliary is **essere**, the **past participle** agrees in gender and number with the **subject** of the verb
  - When the auxiliary is **avere**, the **past participle** agrees in gender and number with the **direct object pronoun** when it precedes the verb in the sentence

# Sequence of the subjunctives

PRESENT ACTION	NOW / PRESENT
<i>lo penso / lo credo / lo ho paura</i>	<b>Present subjunctive</b> – <i>che tu venga</i>

PRESENT ACTION	PAST ACTION
<i>lo penso / lo credo / lo ho paura</i>	<b>Past subjunctive</b> – <i>che tu sia venuto</i>

PAST ACTION	SIMULTANEOUS IN THE PAST
<i>lo pensavo / lo ho creduto / lo ebbi paura</i>	<b>Imperfect subjunctive</b> – <i>che tu venissi</i>

PAST ACTION	PAST – PAST ACTION
<i>lo pensavo / lo ho creduto / lo ebbi paura</i>	<b>Past Perfect subjunctive</b> – <i>che tu fossi venuto</i>



# Sequence of the subjunctives

- The Italian **imperfect subjunctive** (*congiuntivo imperfetto*) is used to express a **later action**
- *To express the future in the past, the imperfect subjunctive can be used as an alternative to the past conditional.*
- *Io credevo che a mezzanotte **arrivassero** tutti (or > *sarebbero arrivati*)*
- *Speravo proprio che Giada **sostenesse** l'esame (or > *avrebbe sostenuto*)*
- *Non pensavo che tu **finissi** in tempo (or > *avresti finito*)*

# Sequence of the subjunctives

- The Italian **past perfect subjunctive** (*congiuntivo trapassato*) is a verbal form generally used to describe *a fact considered not real or not objective, and distinguished by temporal anteriority with respect to an event that took place in the past* > **prior action**
- *Io credevo che a mezzanotte tutti fossero arrivati da parecchio.*
- *Si diceva che qualche anno prima quell'uomo avesse ucciso la moglie.*

# INDEFINITE - adjectives

- **Indefinites** are words which refer to persons, things or periods of time **that are not specific**. They can be positive or negative.
- I was hoping that *someone* would come, but *nobody* came.
  
- **Adjectives**
- **Qualche** (some): *invariable*, used only in the singular form
- **Qualunque/qualsiasi** (any): *invariable*, used only in the singular form
- **Ogni** (all): *invariable*, used only in the singular form
  
- **Nessuno/a** (no/any): *used only in the singular form*
- **Ciascuno/a** (every/each): *used only in the singular form*
  
- **poco/a/hi/he** (little/few)
- **Molto/a/i/e** (many)
- **Parecchio/a/hi/hie** (several)
- **Tanto/a/i/e** (a lot of)
- **Troppo/a/i/e** (too many)
- **Certo/a/i/e** (certain/some)
- **Altro/a/i/e** (other)
- **Alcuno/a/i/e** (some)

# INDEFINITE - pronouns

- They are used to indicate unspecified things or persons
- Pronouns
- **Qualcosa** (something): *invariable*, used only in the singular form
- **Chiunque** (anyone who): *invariable*, used only in the singular form + **subjunctive**
- **Niente/nulla** (nothing): *invariable*, used only in the singular form
  - – Non ho fatto nulla – *after the verb, they require the negation*
  - – Niente cambierà – *before the verb, they don't require the negation*
- **Careful: IN ITALIAN POSITIVE INDEFINITES CANNOT BE USED IN A NEGATIVE SENTENCE!**
- **Qualcuno/a** (some): used only in the singular form
- **Uno/a** (someone): used only in the singular form
- **Ognuno/a** (everyone): used only in the singular form
- **Nessuno/a** (none): used only in the singular form
- **Certo/a/i/e** (certain/some)
- **Altro/a/i/e** (other)
- **Alcuno/a/i/e** (some)
- **Alcuno/a/i/e** (some)

# INDEFINITE - pronouns

- poco (*little*)
- Molto (*much*)
- Parecchio (*much*)
- Tanto (*much*)
- Troppo (*too much*)

# Homework exercises

- For week 7
- - Grammar topic to be discussed in class in week 7: subjunctive and connectives
- - **Homework due in class in week 7**, related to subjunctive and indefinite pronouns and adjectives (see week 5 for reference): ex. 13-14-15 page 49; ex. 5-6-7-8 (*Italian Espresso 2 - Workbook*); revision: re-do all the exercises, also the optional ones (see syllabus, weeks 1-5).