

Grammar: Indirect commands

Overview

Indirect commands are reported commands

'I told him to close the door' rather than 'close the door'

They are formed in Latin using

ut + subjunctive for a command (positive).

ne + subjunctive for a prohibition (negative).

The tense of the subjunctive is usually present or imperfect, following the rules laid down by the sequence of tenses.

Useful vocab:

impero (+ dat.)	order	oro	beg
moneo	warn	rogo	ask
persuadeo (+ dat.)	persuade	hortor	encourage, urge
suadeo (+dat.)	persuade	precor	pray

Notes:

- *cave* is often used without *ne* (but cf. Cicero *cave ne eas* for a counter-example).
- *ut ne* is sometimes used for *ne*
- *iubeo, veto, patior, sino, volo, malo, nolo, cupio* regularly take an accusative and infinitive clause instead
- with some of these verbs (e.g. *rogo, moneo, suadeo, impero, curo, oportet, necesse est, licet*) the subjunctive is often used without *ut*

Examples drawn from the exercises

1. et rursus puerum quaerendo audita fatigat, quem, quae scire timet, †quaerere† fata iubet. *Exercise 6*