

## The Subjunctive Form – Part II

**Goal:** In the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of this chapter on the French subjunctive form, you will learn how to conjugate the IR verbs (2<sup>nd</sup> group) in the subjunctive. In a subsequent lesson, we will learn some useful expressions where we can employ these IR verbs in the subjunctive.

**As in Part I of this chapter, let's quickly remind ourselves of what the subjunctive mood is.**

### Definition

The subjunctive is a verb mood (NOT a verb tense) you can use to express wishes, possibility, necessity, commands, judgments, emotions or to express something that cannot be taken for a fact at present. Usually, the subjunctive will be used in dependent clauses. (Feel free to [send me an email](#) if you need more explanation about dependent clauses). The subjunctive mood can also be referred to as the conjunctive mood. Here are a few sentences in French where the subjunctive mood is used with IR verbs (2<sup>nd</sup> group).

- A- Je voudrais que tu bâtisses une belle maison pour moi. (*I would like you to build a nice house for me.*) [wish]
- B- Elle veut que nous finissions nos devoirs avant midi. (*She wants us to finish our homework before noon.*) [command]
- C- Il n'est pas nécessaire que vous punissiez ces élèves. (It is not necessary that you punish these pupils) [necessity]

The verbs bâtisses, finissions, and punissiez are here used in the subjunctive form. They are also part of a dependent clause (a dependent clause in French will be often preceded by the relative pronoun QUE (*that*)).

**Now, how do we conjugate verbs of the 2<sup>nd</sup> group (IR) in the subjunctive form?**

Here are the 6 endings you need to remember in order to conjugate a verb of the second group in the subjunctive mood: **isse-isses-isse-issions-issiez-issent**.

Simple Present (finir)-to finish	Subjunctive Form (finir)-to finish
Je fin <b>IS</b>	(que) je fin <b>ISSE</b>
Tu fin <b>IS</b>	(que) tu fin <b>ISSES</b>
Il/Elle fin <b>IT</b>	(qu') il/elle fin <b>ISSE</b>
Nous fin <b>ISSONS</b>	(que) nous fin <b>ISSIONS</b>
Vous fin <b>ISSEZ</b>	(que) vous fin <b>ISSIEZ</b>
Ils/Elles fin <b>ISSENT</b>	(qu') ils/elles fin <b>ISSENT</b>

Now that you have a table containing both the simple present and subjunctive form a verb of the 2<sup>nd</sup> group, I hope it will make it easier for you to tell them apart. *Did you notice that for NOUS and VOUS, only the letter (i) made the difference between the subjunctive form and the present simple tense?* Please, learn to recognize this pattern since it affects ALL verbs conjugated in the

subjunctive mood with NOUS and VOUS. Just add (I) before the endings ONS and EZ (in simple present) and you'll get the subjunctive form of that verb for the subject pronouns NOUS and VOUS.

Now it's time to practice! Please, [download this exercise](#) and submit your answers in the [forum](#) when you're done. Merci et bonne chance!