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.

	MAIN CLAUSE TIME	SUBJUNCTIVE TENSE
ACTIVE VOICE EXAMPLES		
Videô quid **laudês**. = I see what you are praising.	present: videô	present
Videô quid **laudâverîs**. = I see what you praised.	present: videô	perfect
Vîdî quid **laudârês**. = I saw what you were praising.	past: vîdî	imperfect
Vîdî quid **laudâvissês**. = I saw what you had praised.	past: vîdî	pluperfect
PASSIVE VOICE EXAMPLES		
Videô quid **laudêtur**. = I see what is being praised.	present: videô	present
Videô quid **laudâtum sit**. = I see what was praised.	present: videô	perfect
Vîdî quid **laudârêtur**. = I saw what was being praised.	past: vîdî	imperfect
Vîdî quid **laudâtum esset.** = I saw what had been praised.	past: vîdî	pluperfect

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

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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**