

Italian B2 Complete Pack

The advanced subjunctive and register – taught, drilled,
and sat under the clock

for English speakers

WHAT IS INSIDE

- 10 chapters, in teaching order
- A full answer key
- Mistakes English speakers make
- Graded exercises
- Italian audio throughout
- Print and mobile editions



How to use this book

What you will learn

Each chapter opens with what you will be able to do and closes with a recap. In between: the rule, real Italian examples, the mistake speakers of your language actually make, and where the language is used.

Nothing is used before it is taught. If a form appears, you have already met it — so read the chapters in order, even the ones that look easy.

Tip

A workable rhythm: one chapter every two days. Day one, read and say the examples out loud. Day two, do that chapter in the workbook before reading anything new. Twenty minutes beats two hours on Sunday.



Free lessons, audio and a word every day on the website.

<https://www.imparitaliano.com/en>

Contents

How to use this book	i
I Week 10	1
1 The imperfect subjunctive, complete	2
1.1 Formation with ESSERE	2
1.2 Formation with AVERE	3
1.3 All Uses of Subjunctive Imperfect	3
1.4 Subjunctive Imperfect - Advanced Uses	3
2 The pluperfect subjunctive and the sequence of tenses	5
2.1 Formation with ESSERE	5
2.2 Formation with AVERE	6
2.3 Uses	6
2.4 Subjunctive Past Perfect - Completed Actions	6
3 The subjunctive where you do not expect it	8
3.1 Opinion Verbs (always subjunctive)	8
3.2 Wishes & Desires (always subjunctive)	8
3.3 Doubts & Uncertainty (always subjunctive)	8
3.4 Impersonal Expressions (always subjunctive)	9
3.5 Conjunctions (always subjunctive)	9
3.6 Advanced Subjunctive Contexts	9
4 What a verb takes after it	11
4.1 Less Common but Important Triggers	11
4.2 Formal/Professional Triggers	12
4.3 Formal & Professional Expressions	12
II Week 11	14
5 Building the long sentence	15
5.1 Passive Voice with Subjunctive	15
5.2 Impersonal Constructions	15
5.3 Advanced Relative Clauses	16
5.4 Academic Writing	16

6	The three passives	17
6.1	Si Passivante (Passive “si”)	17
6.2	Full Passive	17
6.3	Formal Letters & Emails	17
7	Placing events in time	19
7.1	Complex Time Expressions	19
7.2	Professional Presentations	19
III	Week 12	21
8	The markers that steer an argument	22
8.1	Sophisticated Transitions	22
8.2	Emphasizing	23
8.3	Concluding	23
8.4	Advanced Abstract Concepts	23
8.5	Advanced Discourse Markers	23
9	The elevated register	25
9.1	Elevated Constructions	25
9.2	Sophisticated Negation	25
9.3	Advanced Conditional Structures	26
9.4	Literary & Elevated Vocabulary	26
9.5	Art & Literature	26
10	Saying it by degree	28
10.1	Degrees of Certainty	28
10.2	Degrees of Necessity	29
10.3	Cultural & Nuanced Terms	29
10.4	Advanced Argumentation	29

The imperfect subjunctive, complete

What you will learn

- Build the form from any verb without stopping to think
- Use it after a past main verb
- Express a wish that cannot come true

You met this form inside conditionals. Now it becomes general: anything that triggers the subjunctive in the present triggers this one when the main verb is past. “Penso che sia” becomes “pensavo che fosse”. The rule does not change; the time does.

1.1 Formation with ESSERE

Pattern: Imperfetto of auxiliary (essere/avere) + past participle

Pronoun	Form	Example
io	fossi	Vorrei che io fossi venuto.
tu	fossi	Pensavo che tu fossi partito.
lui/lei	fosse	Credevo che lei fosse già arrivata.
noi	fossimo	Speravo che noi fossimo insieme.
voi	foste	Vorrei che voi foste venuti.
loro	fossero	Pensavo che loro fossero già partiti.

1.2 Formation with AVERE

Pronoun	Form	Example
io	avessi	Vorrei che io avessi studiato di più.
tu	avessi	Pensavo che tu avessi capito.
lui/lei	avesse	Credevo che lei avesse finito.
noi	avessimo	Speravo che noi avessimo tempo.
voi	aveste	Vorrei che voi aveste partecipato.
loro	avessero	Pensavo che loro avessero già fatto.

1.3 All Uses of Subjunctive Imperfect

Vorrei che fossi venuto. — I wish you had come. (Wishes in past context)

▶ **Mi dispiace che non fossi venuto.** — I'm sorry you didn't come. (Regrets) [b2-001]

Dubitavo che fosse vero. — I doubted it was true. (Doubts in past)

Pensavo che fosse facile. — I thought it was easy. (Opinions in past)

Se fossi venuto, avrei visto. — If I had come, I would have seen. (Type 3 conditionals)

1.4 Subjunctive Imperfect - Advanced Uses

▶ **Vorrei che fossi venuto ieri.** — I wish you had come yesterday. [b2-115]

▶ **Avrei voluto che fossi stato qui.** — I would have wanted you to be here. [b2-116]

▶ **Sarebbe stato meglio che avessi aspettato.** — It would have been better if you had waited. [b2-117]

▶ **Mi dispiace che non fossi venuto.** — I'm sorry that you didn't come. [b2-001]

▶ **Peccato che non avessi potuto partecipare.** — Too bad you couldn't participate. [b2-118]

▶ **Avrei preferito che fossi rimasto.** — I would have preferred that you stayed. [b2-119]

Common mistake

✗ I thought it was easier → Pensavo che sia più facile.

✓ **Pensavo che fosse più facile.**

English shifts the tense back automatically and silently — “I think it is” becomes “I thought it was” — so you already do this; you simply have to do it with a form English no longer marks.

In real life

Its finest use is a sentence on its own: “Magari fosse vero!” — if only it were true. It stands with no main verb at all, and expresses a wish known to be impossible.



This chapter on the website: more examples and the audio.

<https://www.imparitaliano.com/en/learn/b2/grammar#b2-subjunctive-imperfect>

Recap

- -assi, -essi, -issi by verb family
- Few irregulars: fossi, avessi, facessi, dessi, stessi
- Past main verb ➤ imperfect subjunctive

Next step: And when the doubt is older than the event it doubts, you need a form further back still.

The pluperfect subjunctive and the sequence of tenses

What you will learn

- Build avessi fatto and fossi andato
- Pick the right form from four
- Tell the story of a past misunderstanding

You now have four subjunctive forms, and choosing between them is arithmetic rather than taste: what tense is the main verb, and is the second event before it or with it? One small grid settles every case, and this form is its fourth square.

2.1 Formation with ESSERE

Pattern: Present subjunctive of auxiliary + past participle

Pronoun	Form	Example
io	sia stato/a	Penso che io sia stato bravo.
tu	sia stato/a	Credo che tu sia stato qui.
lui	sia stato	Penso che lui sia stato a Roma.
lei	sia stata	Credo che lei sia stata in Italia.
noi	siamo stati/e	Spero che noi siamo stati insieme.
voi	siate stati/e	Penso che voi siate stati bravi.
loro	siano stati/e	Credo che loro siano stati qui.