

Present Literary Subjunctive

In German there are two present tenses of the subjunctive: the **conversational** (covered in a previous work sheet) and the **literary** (used in writing and formal speech). There is no such distinction in the past tense of the subjunctive. Note the following:

- 1. **Haben, sein**, the modal auxiliaries (**müssen, dürfen, können, mögen, sollen, wollen**) and **wissen** have no distinct literary form; the literary form is *identical* to the conversational form, i.e. **hätte, wäre, müßte, dürfte, könnte, möchte, sollte, wollte, wüßte**.
- 2. For weak verbs, the present literary subjunctive is *identical* to the narrative past: **spielte, machte, heiratete**.
- 3. To form the present literary subjunctive of strong verbs, take the **narrative past stem**, add **umlaut** if the stem vowel is a, o, or u, and then the same **subjunctive endings** as on **hätte, wäre**, etc. Examples: **ginge, spräche, äße, bliebe**.
- 4. Note the following special irregular forms:

bringen	brächte
denken	dächte
kennen	kennte
nennen	nennte

- 5. The functions of the present literary subjunctive are the same as those of the conversational subjunctive, i.e. irreality, politeness, etc.

Express in German

1. If only the girls would stay here longer!
2. I wish my new car were bigger!
3. We would only speak German if Mr. Lemon came into the room.
4. I'd marry you if you participated more in class.
5. If only the teacher would remember my name!
6. Could you give me ten marks, please?
7. I'd give you the money if I found it. (Sure I would)
8. If I were Mr. Lemon I'd write a new German book.
9. You wouldn't like that!
10. I'd put on my new coat if you wanted to go to the party.
11. If only I knew him better!
12. We would never play with those kids, Mom!