



Piazza della Grammatica 1 • Antonella Olson & Eric Edwards, Presentatori e Capocomici

Gentili Ascoltatori, Dear Listeners,

Here's a transcript of "I'm In the Mood For ..." – our recent show about expressing opinions and emotions using the **subjunctive mood**, which you can hear by accessing <https://coerll.utexas.edu/ra/episode/ep04.html>

Gli artisti:
Steven Miller
Eric Edwards

Artists in this broadcast:
Pulcinella as a singer
Writer and composer of Pulcinella's song

Marlene Lucio, Henry Fuentes, Wesley Baker and Bryant Moscon *as the Wheirdos*

Buon divertimento!

Transcript

La canzone di Pulcinella "Spaghetti alle lacrime"

Il povero Pulcinella
crede che la vita **sia** bella
ma non sa cosa lo aspetta
al veder Arlecchinetta.

Quando la vedo sul palcoscenico
crederai ch'io **diventi** schizofrenico

In quel momento leggendario
quando si alza il sipario

mi pare che **si tolga** il tovagliolo
per rivelare il raviolo

più squisito della terra.
Nel mio cuor: effetto serra!

Più deliziosa di Arlecchinetta

The Song of Pulcinella "Tearful Spaghetti
(A poetic translation, not word for word!)

Poor little, little Pulcinella
thinks that life is so stellar
but he doesn't know what's gonna come
when he sees Arlecchinetta, she's the one!

When I see her up on the stage
I think I'm flying into a rage

In that moment so legendary
when the curtain lifts heavenly

it seems that it removes the wrapping
to reveal the ravioli's delicate topping

most exquisite throughout the globe
a deadly greenhouse effect on my soul

More delicious than my lovely Arlecchinetta

non credo che pizza **abbia** fetta.

not even the most delectable tomato on
bruschetta

Questo è sogno? o è fatto?
Pulcinella, dai, sei matto

Is this a dream, or is it really true
Come on, Pulcinella, don't be a fool

Voglio disperatamente
dirle quanto io le voglio bene
ma lei non sente
non vuole che le **dica** niente.

I desperately want to say
how much I love her every day
but she doesn't hear a thing
she wants that I tell her No-thing!

Arlecchina, Arlecchina,

Arlecchina, Arlecchina,

quando sentirai il mio pianto
saprai che il mio cuor è infranto.

when you hear me cry and wail
you'll know that my heart's gonna fail

Per il dolor della mia anima spezzata
non c'è altro rimedio che una bella
spaghetтата.

For the pain of my broken soul and psyche
there's no other remedy but a fine plate of
spaghetti.

Nota Grammaticale

Indicative vs **Subjunctive**

Main rules to use subjunctive (wheirdo category/two subjects) and infinitive (one subject)

By far the most common use of the **subjunctive** is to express actions that are viewed subjectively rather than objectively: actions that are colored by emotion or doubt rather than reported as matters of fact. This use of the **subjunctive** in dependent clauses is triggered by verbs in the main clause that we may consider as belonging to the “**WHEIRDO**” category: verbs that denote wish or will, hope, emotion, impersonal expressions, recommendations, doubt or denial, opinions:

W is for Wanting and Wishing.

Vorrei che Colombina **si innamorasse** di me!
I wish Colombina would fall in love with me.

H is for Hope.

Spero che il Dottore non **dia** più fastidio ad Arlecchina.
I hope the Dottore won't bother Arlecchina any more.

E is for Emotion.

Gli spettatori **hanno paura** che Arlecchino gli **salti** sulle gambe.
The audience is afraid Arlecchino will jump right into their laps.

I is for Impersonal Expressions.

È **impossibile** che Arlecchino **smetta** di corteggiare Colombina.

It's impossible for Arlecchino to stop courting Colombina.

R is for Recommending.

Il regista **si raccomanda** che tutti gli attori **imparino** la parte a memoria.

The director recommends that all the actors learn their parts by heart.

D is for Doubt.

Arlecchina **dubita** che Pulcinella la **difenda** da Balanzone.

Arlecchina doubts that Pulcinella will defend her from Balanzone.

O is for Opinion.

Pulcinella **crede** che la vita **sia** bella.

Pulcinella believes that life is beautiful.

While in the **indicative mood**, the choice of verb tense almost always depends on when the action takes place: in the past, the present, or the future, in the **subjunctive mood**, the choice of tense depends on when the action takes place in relation to the verb in the main clause that triggers the use of the subjunctive in the subordinate clause:

Il Dottore **sa** che Colombina **è** bella -- **indicative**

The Doctor thinks that Colombina is beautiful.

Colombina **pensa** che il Dottore **sia** brutto -- **subjunctive**

Colombina thinks that the Doctor is ugly.

Here some of the golden rules that govern this mood:

1. Verb in the main clause belongs to the **WHEIRDO** category;
2. The dependent clause is introduced by **che** and has a subject different from the one in the main clause.

The **subjunctive mood** has four tenses:

Presente: Penso che la canzone di Pulcinella **abbia** parole strane
I think Pulcinella's song has weird lyrics

Passato: Penso che lui **abbia scritto** la canzone in un momento di follia
I think he wrote the song in a moment of foolishness

Imperfetto: Speravamo che Pulcinella **invitasse** tutti
We were hoping that Pulcinella would invite everyone

Trapassato: Avremmo voluto che lo spettacolo **fosse cominciato** prima
We would have wanted for the show to begin earlier.

If the verb in the main clause belongs to the **WHEIRDO** category and the subject of the main clause is the **same** as the subject of the dependent clause, then the **infinitive mood** must be used. **Infinito presente** is used if the action is **contemporary** or **future** compared to the action of the verb in the main clause:

Pulcinella **pensa** (**pensava/aveva pensato/ecc.**) di **cantare** bene.

Pulcinella thinks (thought/had thought/etc.) to sing well (that he sings well).

Infinito passato is used if the the action is **past** compared to the action of the verb in the main clause:

Loro **sperano** (**speravano/avevano sperato/ecc.**) di **aver recitato** bene ieri sera.

They hope (were hoping/had hoped/etc.) to have performed (that they have/hadperformed) well last night .

Nota Culturale

If you get a *déjà vu* feeling during this Moody Musical Moment, it might be because our Pulcinella has freely quoted--and misquoted--passages from Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* ("Una furtiva lagrima") and Puccini's *Tosca* ("E lucevan le stelle").

Vocabolario: a teatro

If you decide to go to the *Teatro* in Italy you can buy *il biglietto* (the ticket) on line or al *botteghino* (ticket office). Before entering the theatre, you must find a *parcheggio* (parking area) for your car. Often, outside the theatre a *parcheggiatore* (parking man) is available to accommodate your needs. In Rome, he will lure you with a *venghi, venghi Dotto'* (come, come Doctor). You will wonder when you went to medical school or got your PhD or what strange use of the subjunctive is the one he uses. *Tuttavia* (nonetheless) you give him your car and your money but *non temere* (fear not!) when *lo spettacolo finisce* (the show ends) your valuable car will still be there.

Often, you will consume *una bibita* (a drink) before the show starts. When you decide to seat *al tuo posto* (your seat), you ask *la maschera* (the usher) to help you locate it. In big theatres there are *molte file numerate* (many numbered rows) and it is not easy to find the right seat. If you seat *in platea*, (the main floor in front of the stage) your tickets must be *molto cari* (very expensive). If you seat *in piccionaia* (lit. where the pigeons stay) you are a probably a student and your tickets are *molto economici* (very cheap). Wherever you seat, *il palcoscenico* (the stage) dominates the theatre.

Ecco, Si alza il sipario, entrano gli attori, la magia incomincia. (Here it is. The curtain goes up, the actors enter the stage, the magic begins). If *la rappresentazione* (the performance) is nice,

you *applaudirai gli attori molte volte* (you will applaud the actors many times). If la rappresentazione is not nice, *si può fischiare* (one may boo) but always with *classe e discrezione* (tact and discretion). Enjoy the show and don't forget to *vestirsi in maniera appropriata* (dress appropriately); after all you are in Italy!

Thanks for listening! And be sure to tell your friends that you heard it here on **Radio Arlecchino!**

Your hosts with the most – grammar,
Antonella Olson & Eric Edwards
“*Out of our minds ... into your ears*”