

Fear Clauses

Fear clauses are used to express a fear or undesirable outcome.

Fear clauses **always** contain a subjunctive verb. They are generally introduced by the word **nē**, and they can be translated as:

- **that... might/would**
- **lest...**

Lest is by far the easier way to translate **nē** in a fear clause because it is the same exact way that we translate negative purpose clauses (which also use **nē**).

Examples:

timuīmus **nē** Roma vinceretur.

*We were afraid **lest** Rome would fall.*

*We were afraid **that** Rome might fall.*

timeō **nē** cadāmus.

*I fear **lest** we fall.*

*I fear **that** we might fall.*

magnam timorem habuimus **nē** serus advenirēmus.

*We had a great fear **lest** we arrive late.*

*We had a great fear **that** we would arrive late.*