

1: Spanish Subjunctive Guide

The subjunctive mood is rarely used in English, but it is widely used in Spanish. Here are some examples of the subjunctive being used in English: The doctor recommends that he take the pills with food.

The Subjunctive Mood written by: The moods are indicative and subjunctive. Indicative mood is used to state facts; the subjunctive mood expresses attitudes or the hypothetical. To see how the subjunctive verb is formed, read on So with the verb hablar, the verb stem in the yo form hablo would be habl-. So we just refer to the chart and add the appropriate ending. Since hablar is in the -ar family, we add the first column endings. For example, we have digo from decir and conozco from conocer. For the Spanish present subjunctive, just add the appropriate endings to the irregular yo form and maintain the pattern throughout. Several commonly used Spanish verbs are irregular throughout the present subjunctive and do not follow the foregoing rules. Those verbs are conjugated in the chart below: Spanish uses the subjunctive more extensively than English. In Spanish the subjunctive is used: It is necessary that you buy the ticket today. The following expressions always trigger the subjunctive: Es bueno - It is good. Es importante - It is important. Es imposible - It is impossible. Es malo - It is bad. Es mejor - It is better. Es Necesario - It is necessary. Es urgente - It is urgent.

2: The Spanish Subjunctive

Spanish Subjunctive The subjunctive (*el subjuntivo*) is one of the three moods in Spanish, the other two being the indicative and the imperative. The subjunctive is used to express desires, doubts, the unknown, the abstract, and emotions.

This is key to understanding a very important point: *Estoy seguro que los seres humanos tienen alas*. The above statement is not true, but the speaker believes it is, so the second verb is in the indicative. Features of Sentences that Use the Subjunctive There are three main features that most sentences that use the subjunctive share: Two Subjects Most subjunctive sentences will have one subject in the main clause and one in the secondary clause. The attitude of the subject in the main clause is what triggers the use of the subjunctive in the secondary clause. *Laura wants you to clean the bathroom*. It is perfectly possible to use the subjunctive when both clauses refer to the same subject. *Dudo que yo pueda ir a la fiesta*. I doubt I can go to the party. *Espero que yo lo sepa hacer*. I hope I know how to do it. Two Verbs Most subjunctive sentences have two verbs: A Relative Pronoun Most subjunctive sentences have a relative pronoun such as *que* or *quien* that links the main indicative clause to the secondary subjunctive clause. Words and Phrases that Trigger the Subjunctive or Indicative Another key to grasping the differences between the subjunctive and the indicative is understanding that certain words or phrases trigger the use of each mood. For example, words and phrases that indicate uncertainty trigger the subjunctive, while those that indicate certainty trigger the indicative. *I hope you come to the party*. *Me sorprende que pienses eso*. I know you really like coffee. Indicative in Spanish Take a practice quiz on "Subjunctive vs.

3: The Present Subjunctive - www.enganchecubano.com

My focus will be on the Spanish subjunctive, but the principles I explain should help with the subjunctive in any language. This article is not: A guide to subjunctive verb forms - i.e. the subjunctive endings for hablar, comer, partir etc.

Si If Events The imperfect subjunctive is also used when you use an if clause when trying to explain something that is contrary-to-fact or unlikely to happen. So, for example when you say: If I worked harder, I would get promoted. This would translate to: This sentence is using the if clause to explain why the person cannot do something. So contrary to the fact that that person did their job, they were not promoted because they did not work hard enough. But using the if clause simplifies this sentence. You can see that the two verbs in the Spanish sentence were conjugated according to the trick that I showed you above. The English equivalent of these unreal sentences is the second conditional. If I had a lot of money, I would buy a house. If I knew the answer, I would give it to you. If they offered me the job, I would accept it. If I were taller, I would enter the team. If you did not smoke, you would not be sick. Where would you live if you could live anywhere in the world? The *que* might actually mean different things depending on where it is placed in a sentence and where the accent mark falls. The imperfect subjunctive is used in the dependent clause after you use the word *que* but only when the independent clause is in the past tense. Let me give you an example of this: I wanted him to drink a tequila with me. But in Spanish you need to use it because you are expressing the imperfect subjunctive of what you want or expect to happen. It is a desire or expectation that is not substantially real. Never use the subjunctive mood to express positive opinions in Spanish. As we learned before, you can use it to express doubts or negative opinions. **Being Polite** The imperfect subjunctive is also used in some polite expressions that contain Spanish modal verbs. I would like to attend the party. *Quisiera asistir a la fiesta.* How would you say: Should I go with you? The word *should* is the same as the verb *deber*. So how would you translate this sentence? Keep in mind that you need to use the imperfect subjunctive. Try writing it down and then continue to scroll down for the answer. Could you bring me my purse, please? Try writing down your answer so that you can compare it with the answer below. Trust me, write your answers down. This should translate to: All of these expressions contain one of the following Spanish modal verbs: I would not like to miss that movie! *Quisiera hacer una pregunta.* I would like to ask a question.

4: More Subjunctive Tenses in Spanish

Nevertheless, it is similar enough that it should provide a basis for understanding the Spanish subjunctive. Think about the following pairs of sentences: "If I were in your position, I would call the police." "I was in your position, and I called the police."

Why does Spanish have two words where English has only one? English speakers often struggle to learn it. The subjunctive is a mood, not a tense. Most Spanish grammar books explain how to use the subjunctive, but do a bad job of explaining what it actually is. My focus will be on the Spanish subjunctive, but the principles I explain should help with the subjunctive in any language. This article is not: A guide to subjunctive verb forms. Such explanations are helpful, but starting with them would be like building a house from the roof downwards. My aim here is to give you a foundation. My lessons could be a case study in what not to do: The subjunctive was introduced about halfway through. To me, however, the subjunctive was an enigmatic mystery. People spoke of it in awestruck whispers, like a superweapon too dangerous to handle. Clearly it was far beyond the capabilities of feeble young minds like my own. So when we did start learning the subjunctive, it felt like a HUGE deal. How will it be presented to you? Probably something like this: Use a subjunctive in a subordinate clause with a change of subject when the first verb is blah, blah blah! Asleep yet? As well as being exceptionally boring, this is just about the most slow and ineffective way you can possibly learn the subjunctive. You might find it obvious, but not everyone agrees. Spanish speakers who learn English are often unsure which word to use. But to a native English speaker, it barely requires thoughts. This is how the subjunctive feels to native Spanish speakers. They simply pick the word that means what they want to say. So, if you want to use the subjunctive correctly, this is the first and most important step you must take: What Does The Subjunctive Mean? When should you use each one? The easiest way to see the difference is to compare some example sentences: Go down the list, and for each sentence ask yourself: This is the fundamental difference between the indicative and the subjunctive. Indicative verbs describe reality: Subjunctive verbs describe possibility: You heard me right: English has a subjunctive. Take a look at this sentence: But why use the past tense? This sentence is describing a state of affairs in the present. In this case, had is clearly referring to the past, and is a simple indicative verb. I just want to note that, as a Brit, this really grates my ears. Spanish, on the other hand, makes the distinction clear for all verbs: It could also be *tuviese*, which means the same thing. As an exercise, compare these English sentences: If I had the money, I would pay you. If I had had the money, I would have paid you. If I have the money, I will pay you. For each sentence, ask yourself: Can you swap this around and still have it make sense? Now look at the Spanish translations. Can you see how they follow the same grammatical patterns as their English counterparts? Thinking about these examples should help you understand what the subjunctive means in both English and Spanish. The below examples all helped me to understand what the subjunctive means. *Creo que Benny habla chino* "I think Benny speaks Chinese. So we use an indicative. The second sentence introduces an element of doubt. In the second sentence, things are negated. *Busco a alguien que tiene una barba* "indicative *Busco a alguien que tenga una barba* "subjunctive This is an advanced one! This is a great example of how the subjunctive allows for finer shades of meaning that would require extra words to translate precisely into English. She really does watch Game of Thrones. The verb refers to the abstract possibility of me watching it, therefore a subjunctive is in order. Where To Go From Here? The subjunctive is a big topic. I recommend making flashcards to learn the sentence structure. Just remember the golden rule: Do you have any tips for learning the Spanish subjunctive, or the subjunctive in any other language? What helped you wrap your head around its meaning? Let us know in the comments.

5: Past Subjunctive Irregular | Spanish Verb Conjugation

*The subjunctive (*El subjuntivo*) can be tricky to grasp for English speakers, as it's rare in our language. I'm putting this guide together in the hopes that it will help those who struggle with this aspect of Spanish.*

The most beautiful girl I know. One difference between the French subjunctive and the Italian is that Italian uses the subjunctive after expressions like "Penso che" "I think that", where French would use the indicative.

Present subjunctive[edit] The present subjunctive is similar to, but still mostly distinguishable from, the present indicative. Subject pronouns are often used with the present subjunctive where they are normally omitted in the indicative, since in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd person singular forms are the same, so the person is not implicitly implied from the verb. Irregular verbs tend to follow the 1st person singular form, such as the present subjunctive forms of *andar*, which goes to *vaya* etc. The present subjunctive is used in a range of situations in clauses taking the subjunctive. The present subjunctive is used mostly in subordinate clauses, as in the examples above. However, exceptions include imperatives using the subjunctive using the 3rd person, and general statements of desire. However, unlike in French, where it is often replaced with the present subjunctive, the imperfect subjunctive is far more common. Verbs with a contracted infinitive, such as *decir* short for *decere* revert to the longer form in the imperfect subjunctive to give *diciere* etc. The imperfect subjunctive is used in subordinate clauses taking the subjunctive where the sense of the verb requires the imperfect. They are used in subordinate clauses which require the subjunctive, where the sense of the verb requires use of the perfect or pluperfect. Its spoken form makes use of it to a much larger degree than other Latin languages and it is in no case homonymous to any other tense. Furthermore, it is common to find long complex sentences almost entirely in the subjunctive. The subjunctive is used in conjunction with impersonal expressions and expressions of emotion, opinion, desire or viewpoint. More importantly, it applies to most hypothetical situations, likely or unlikely, desired or not. Normally, only certitude of or statement of a fact will remove the possibility of its use. Unlike French, it is also used in phrases expressing the past conditional. The negative of the imperative shares the same form with the present subjunctive. Common introductions to the subjunctive would include the following: Let it be what God wills. Nevertheless, the subjunctive can stand alone to supplant other tenses. Complex use of the subjunctive is a constant pattern of everyday speech among natives but difficult to interiorize even by relatively proficient Spanish learners.

e. I would have liked you to come on Thursday: An example of the subtlety of the Spanish subjunctive is the way the tense past, present or future modifies the expression "be it as it may" literally "be what it be": Similar meaning to above. *Sea lo que fuere*. The same alterations could be made to the expression *Sea como sea* or "no matter how" with similar changes in meaning. Spanish has two past subjunctive forms. They are almost identical, except that where the "first form" has *-ra-*, the "second form" has *-se-*. Both forms are usually interchangeable although the *-se-* form may be more common in Spain than in other Spanish-speaking areas. The *-ra-* forms may also be used as an alternative to the conditional in certain structures.

Present subjunctive[edit] In Spanish, a present subjunctive form is always different from the corresponding present indicative form. The corresponding indicative would be "que hablan". The same is true for all verbs, regardless of their subject. When there are two clauses, separated by *que*. However, not all "que" clauses require the subjunctive mood. They must have at least one of the following criteria: As the fourth edition of *Mosaicos* states, when the verb of the main clause expresses emotion

e. Impersonal expressions are used in the main clause. The verb in the second clause is the one that is in subjunctive. I hope that they will buy me a gift. *Te recomiendo que no corras con tijeras*. I recommend that you not run with scissors. *Dudo que el restaurante abra a las seis*. I doubt that the restaurant might open at six. *Lo discutiremos cuando venga a venir*. *Es importante que nosotros hagamos ejercicio*. It is important that we exercise. I am happy that you are my friend.

Past imperfect subjunctive[edit] Used interchangeably, the past imperfect subjunctive can end either in *-se-* or *-ra-*. Both forms stem from the third-person plural *ellos, ellas, ustedes* of the preterite. For example, the verb "estar", when conjugated in the third-person plural of the preterite, becomes "estuvieron". Then, drop the "-ron" ending, and add either *-se-* or *-ra-*. Thus, it becomes "estuviese" or "estuviera". The past subjunctive may be used with "if If I were

the teacher, I would not give too much homework. Future subjunctive[edit] In Spanish, the future subjunctive tense is now rare but still used in certain dialects of Spanish and in formal speech. It is usually reserved for literature, archaic phrases and expressions, and legal documents. The form is similar to the "-ra" form of the imperfect subjunctive, but with a "-re" ending instead of "-ra," "-res" instead of "-ras," and so on. Phrases expressing the subjunctive in a future period normally employ the present subjunctive. Pluperfect past perfect subjunctive[edit] In Spanish, the pluperfect subjunctive tense is used to describe a continuing wish in the past. To form this tense, first conjugate the subjunctive form of haber in the example above, "haber" becomes "hubieras". Then add the participle of the main verb in this case "ir" becomes "ido". I like that you had gone, but he failed his math test. Though the "-re" form appears to be more closely related to the imperfect subjunctive "-ra" form than the "-se" form, that is not the case. The "-se" form of the imperfect subjunctive derives from the pluperfect subjunctive of Vulgar Latin and the "-ra" from the pluperfect indicative, combining to overtake the previous pluperfect subjunctive ending. The "-re" form is more complicated, stemming so to speak from a fusion of the perfect subjunctive and future perfect indicative which, though in different moods, happened to be identical in the second and third persons before losing the perfect in the shift to future subjunctive, the same perfect nature that was the only thing the forms originally shared. So the "-ra" and "-se" forms always had a past to be specific, pluperfect meaning, but only the "-se" form always belonged with the subjunctive mood that the "-re" form had since its emergence. It can also express emotion, opinion, disagreement, denial, or a wish. Its value is similar to the one it has in formal English: It is [present indicative] necessary that he speak [present subjunctive]. The imperfect subjunctive is also used when the main clause is in the conditional: It would be [conditional] necessary that he speak [present subjunctive]. Note that there are authors[who? Future subjunctive[edit] Portuguese differs from other Ibero-Romance languages in having retained the medieval future subjunctive futuro do subjuntivo , which is rarely used in Spanish and Galician and has been lost in other West Iberic languages. It expresses a condition that must be fulfilled in the future, or is assumed to be fulfilled, before an event can happen. Spanish and English will use the present tense in this type of clause. For example, in conditional sentences whose main clause is in the conditional, Portuguese, Spanish and English employ the past tense in the subordinate clause. Nevertheless, if the main clause is in the future, Portuguese will employ the future subjunctive where English and Spanish use the present indicative. Note that English, when being used in a rigorously formal style, takes the present subjunctive in these situation, example: If I be, then Contrast the following two sentences. If I were [past subjunctive] king, I would end [conditional] hunger. Se fosse [imperfect subjunctive] rei, acabaria com [conditional] a fome. If I am [present indicative] [technical English is "if I be" present subjunctive] elected president, I will change [future indicative] the law. Se for [future subjunctive] eleito presidente, mudarei [future indicative] a lei. The first situation is counterfactual ; the listener knows that the speaker is not a king. However, the second statement expresses a promise about the future; the speaker may yet be elected president. For a different example, a father speaking to his son might say: When you are [present indicative] older, you will understand [future indicative]. Quando tu seras [future indicative] grand, tu compreenderas [future indicative]. The future subjunctive is identical in form to the personal infinitive in regular verbs, but they differ in some irregular verbs of frequent use. However, the possible differences between the two tenses are due only to stem changes. They always have the same endings.

6: Subjunctive: Part I - www.enganchecubano.com

The subjunctive (el subjuntivo) is one of three moods in Spanish. The other two Spanish moods are the indicative and the imperative. The subjunctive mood is used to talk about desires, doubts, wishes, conjectures, and possibilities.

Part I The written lesson is below. Links to quizzes, tests, etc. All too frequently, the topic of the subjunctive is made far more difficult than is necessary. The subjunctive is not a tense; rather, it is a mood. Tense refers to when an action takes place past, present, future, while mood merely reflects how the speaker feels about the action. The subjunctive mood is rarely used in English, but it is widely used in Spanish. Here are some examples of the subjunctive being used in English: The doctor recommends that he take the pills with food. I were So far, you have studied verb tenses in the indicative mood. The indicative mood is used to express factual information, certainty, and objectivity. You are going to Peru in December. The above sentence merely reports the fact that you are going to Peru in December, so the indicative mood is used. I doubt that you are going to Peru in December. The subjunctive mood is used to express everything except certainty and objectivity: Since the above statement does not express certainty, the subjunctive *vaya* is required in the second clause. Indicative John goes to the store. This sentence merely states the certain, objective fact that John goes to the store. I know that John goes to the store. There is no doubt that John goes to the store. Subjunctive I want John to go to the store. I hope that John goes to the store. It is possible that John will go to the store. Because there must be some uncertainty or subjectivity to warrant the use of the subjunctive, you will usually see it in sentences that contain a main clause which introduces a quality of uncertainty or subjectivity. I hope she will come. The above examples all have main clauses, but only the first and the third introduce an element of uncertainty or subjectivity. In learning to use the subjunctive, it is quite helpful if one can first recognize such clauses. The following is a list of clauses commonly associated with the use of the subjunctive:

7: How to Learn the Spanish Subjunctive: A Simpler Approach

Learning not only when to use the subjunctive mood, but which form of the subjunctive to use, can be one of the most difficult parts of learning Spanish verb usage. The rules can appear quite complicated at first, partly because the subjunctive mood is nearly absent in English. But learning the.

Selected Rules and Tips The Spanish subjunctive is the way to express a hope or wish, an uncertainty or attitude in respect of a fact or idea. In English, the subjunctive is difficult to recognise because it is spelled like other tenses of a verb. This is a summary of the most common rules and uses of the subjunctive in Spanish. It is, by no means, a complete guide, but it will get you started. If you still find yourself battling to understand Spanish grammar concepts, you should check out the books recommended at the bottom of this page. Click here to check them out. To be able to follow some of the explanations in this page, you should know that a sentence containing a subjunctive verb has 2 clauses: The independent clause is the one with the main verb *querer*. The dependent clause is the one with the subjunctive mood of the verb *digas*, from the verb *decir*, i.

The Present Subjunctive in Spanish Use the Spanish subjunctive when you want a subject to do something. I want you to speak Spanish. You want me to speak Spanish. They want us to speak Spanish. When the subjects of the 2 verbs are the same, that is, when I want to do something myself, use the infinitive, not subjunctive: To use the present subjunctive in Spanish, simple or compound, in the dependend clause, the verb in the main clause must be in the present or future indicative simple or compound , or in a command form, and the verb must express "volition" will , emotion or feeling, belief, doubt or denial. The subject pronouns are used to help you, but in conversation we know to whom we are referring and therefore they are not essential. You may grasp the idea of the Spanish subjunctive more easily by recalling that in English it is similarly used in many expressions such as: It is my wish that she wait here not waites. Here are other examples: Do you want me to read? *Ellos quieren que usted salga temprano.* They want you to leave early. *Temo que Elena no venga.* Tell Guillermo to write soon. *Mis padres me prohíben que fume en la casa.* My parents forbid me to smoke at home. *Yo dudo que ellos vengán.* Note that the indicative is used when the verb *dudar* is in the negative, and when the verb *Creer* is in the affirmative. *No dudo que ellos vendrán.* Use the Spanish subjunctive in impersonal expressions when the dependent verb has a subject expressed or implied: *Es necesario que Ud salga hoy.* It is necessary for you to go out today. *Es imposible que ella lo sepa.* The Spanish subjunctive is not used when the dependent verb has no subject, nor when the impersonal expressions denot certainty. *Es imposible saber eso. Es verdad que ella viene.*

The Imperfect Spanish Subjunctive To use the imperfect subjunctive in the dependent clause, the verb in the main clause must be in the past preterite , imperfect, or conditionalindicative, and the verb must express volition will , etc. There is no difference between the -ra and the -se verb endings. Did you want me to read the book? *Ellos pedían que comieras temprano.* They asked that you eat early. I was afraid she would not come. *Mis padres me prohibieron que yo fumara en casa.* I would prefer that you come earlier. When a verb of motion, feeling, belief, or doubt is in the present indicative, it may be followed by the imperfect subjunctive to express what you still feel about something that has already happened. Compare the following sentences: *Yo no creo que ella venga. Yo no creo que ella viniera.* I do not think she came. A statement or a polite request using *querer*, *poder* y *deber* may be softened by using the -ra form of the imperfect subjunctive. Do you want to come along with me? Would you like to come along with me? I want to send a message to Panama. Can you tell me if this is the correct way to the capital city? Could you tell me if this is the correct way to the capital city? Use the imperfect Spanish subjunctive with *como si* as if, as though. *Usted me mira como si no me comprendiera.* He ran as if the devil was after him! But you will find the following rules governing the general use of the Spanish subjunctive mood. Use the subjunctive in the dependent clause when the antecedent is an indefinite or unknown person or thing expressed either by a noun or a pronoun. There was nobody who could tell me where the store was. Use the Spanish subjunctive imperfect in the dependent clause after the following Spanish conjunctions: Use the Spanish subjunctive imperfect in the dependent clause with the following conjunctions to express future action:

8: Learning Spanish: How to Form and Use the Spanish Subjunctive Mood

The imperfect subjunctive in Spanish might be one of the most challenging tenses to understand and put into practice. However, once you learn it, you will be looking for ways to use the Spanish imperfect subjunctive whenever you can.

There are often three main parts to a subjunctive sentence: I want you to clean the bathroom. Wishes and Desires with the Subjunctive Wishing, wanting, demanding, desiring, expecting, ordering, and preferring all fall into the category of wishes. Learn more about wishes and desires here. Esperamos que cocines bien. We hope that you cook well. Expressing Emotions with the Subjunctive Being annoyed, angry, happy, regretful, sad, scared, or surprised all fall into this category. Learn more about expressing emotions here. It makes me happy that you smile. They focus on the subjectivity of the statement and not on the actual truth or reality of the situation. Learn more about impersonal expressions here. Es necesario que Jaime lea este libro. It is necessary that Jaime read this book. Recommendations and Requests with the Subjunctive When a person recommends, suggests, wants, or asks another person to do or not do something, the subjunctive is used. Learn more about recommendations and requests here. My doctor recommends I drink more water. Doubt and Denial with the Subjunctive To doubt or deny something is to question its connection with reality or to express that it is hypothetical. Learn more about doubts and denial here. I doubt that he has my phone number. I hope to God he remembers our anniversary. Check out this article on using the subjunctive to express uncertainty or conditional outcomes.

9: Spanish Subjunctive | SpanishDict

The subjunctive mood is rarely used in English, but it is widely used in Spanish. Use this verb quizzer to practice conjugating verbs in the present subjunctive. To learn when to use the subjunctive, please refer to the appropriate exercises in the Grammar Tutorial.

Forms[edit] English has present subjunctive and past subjunctive forms, which are often similar to the present indicative and past indicative forms the familiar present and past tense forms of verbs. Note that these terms are used here merely as names for forms that verbs take; the use of "present subjunctive" and "past subjunctive" forms is not limited to referring to present and past time. Sometimes the term subjunctive is used only to refer to what is called here the present subjunctive. The present subjunctive is identical to the bare infinitive and imperative of the verb in all forms. This means that, for almost all verbs, the present subjunctive differs from the present indicative only in the third person singular form, which lacks the ending -s in the subjunctive. Present indicative I own, you own, he owns, we own, they own Present subjunctive that I own, that you own, that he own, that we own, that they own With the verb be, however, the two moods are fully distinguished: Present indicative I am, you are, he is, we are, they are Present subjunctive that I be, that you be, that he be, that we be, that they be Note also the defective verb beware, which lacks indicative forms, but has a present subjunctive: Present subjunctive forms are negated by placing the word not before them. Present indicative I do not own, you do not own, he does not own; I am not Present subjunctive that I not own, that you not own, that he not own; that I not be The past subjunctive exists as a distinct form only for the verb be, which has the form were throughout: Past indicative I was, you were, he was, we were, they were Past subjunctive that I were, that you were, that he were, that we were, that they were In the past tense, there is no difference between the two moods as regards manner of negation: I was not; that I were not. Verbs other than be are described as lacking a past subjunctive, or possibly as having a past subjunctive identical in form to the past indicative: Compound forms, auxiliaries and modals[edit] The subjunctive forms be, have, and were can also be used as auxiliaries, e. It is important that he be cured. The English modal verbs do not have present subjunctive forms. A construction with the modal should is frequently used as an alternative to the simple present subjunctive, e. It is important that he should be cured. The should form, in certain conditionals, can undergo inversion as described below. Use of the present subjunctive[edit] The main use of the English present subjunctive, called the mandative or jussive subjunctive, [1] occurs in that clauses declarative content clauses ; the word that is sometimes omitted in informal and conversational usage expressing a circumstance that is desired, demanded, recommended, necessary, vel sim. Such a clause may be dependent on verbs like insist, suggest, demand, prefer, [a] adjectives like necessary, desirable, [b] or nouns like recommendation, necessity; [c] it may be part of the expression in order that or some formal uses of so that ; it may also stand independently as the subject of a clause or as a predicative expression. The form is called the present subjunctive because it resembles the present indicative in form, not because it need refer to the present time. I insist that he leave now. We asked that it be done yesterday. It might be desirable that you not publish the story. I support the recommendation that they not be punished. I braked in order that the car stay on the road. That he appear in court is a necessary condition for his being granted bail. Note that after some words, both indicative and subjunctive are possible, with difference in meaning: Marjorie had insisted that Barbara spent the morning resting in her stateroom. As it was grey outside and the wind was markedly cooler, she was not deprived too much. Green, Leslie Thompson, an Autobiography, , p. He was exhausted and right now all he wanted to do was to take his tired ass home and get some sleep. Satterwhite, Playaz and Wolves, , p. Song by Song, , p. Examples 2 and 3 may similarly perplex some readers: Example 4 is a curious mix of both British alternatives to the subjunctive: Examples 5 and 6 show that some non-verbal constructions can have similar mandative force. American versions of the above examples would use the subjunctive: Another use of the present subjunctive is in clauses with the conjunction lest, which generally express a potential adverse event: I am running faster lest she catch me i. This usage is mostly old-fashioned or excessively formal, although it is found in some common fixed expressions such as if need be. Perhaps somewhat more common is the use after

whether in the sense of "no matter whether": Whether they be friend or foe, we shall give them shelter. Analogous uses are occasionally found after other conjunctions, such as unless, until, whoever, wherever, etc.: I shall not do it unless I be instructed; [e] Whoever he be, he shall not go unpunished. In most of the above examples a form with should can be used as an alternative: I insist that he should leave now etc. This is more common in British English than American English. In some cases, such as after in order that, another alternative is to use may or especially with past reference might: I am putting your dinner in the oven in order that it may keep warm. He wrote it in his diary in order that he might remember. A present subjunctive verb form is sometimes found in a main clause, with the force of a wish or a third person imperative and such forms can alternatively be analyzed as imperatives. This is most common nowadays in established phrases, such as God bless you, God save the Queen, heaven forbid, peace be with you, truth be told, so be it, suffice it to say, long liveâ€¦, woe betideâ€¦ It is used more broadly in some archaic or literary English. May God bless you etc.

Use of the past subjunctive [edit] The only distinct past subjunctive form in English is. As with the present subjunctive, the name past subjunctive refers to the form of the verb rather than its meaning; it need not and in fact usually does not refer to past time. If I were your wife, I would put poison in your coffee. A common expression involving were is if I were you. If she were to goâ€¦ or Were she to goâ€¦ equivalent to if she went. The past subjunctive form may be used similarly to express counterfactual conditions after suppose, as if, as though, unless, etc. Suppose that I were there now. She looks as though she were going to kill him. There is also the set expression as it were. I wish [that] he were here now. If only the door were unlocked. I would rather [that] she were released. Would that it were true! Oh that it were so. However, the use of the subjunctive with words such as wish is seldom obligatory. I would rather she be released. Distinguishing from past indicative after if [edit] Confusion sometimes arises in the case of if clauses containing an ordinary past indicative was. When if means when, the indicative is the proper mood. If he were to walk down the road, he might whistle. If he was in class yesterday, he learned it. If he were in class today, he would be learning it. The first if clause contains a simple past indicative, referring to past time it is not known whether or not the circumstance in fact took place. The second, however, expresses a counterfactual circumstance connected with the present, and therefore contains or should contain a past subjunctive.

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