


# The Present Subjunctive

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A scholarly look into this  
grammatical phenomenon.

# The Subjunctive

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- Up to now you have been using verbs in the *indicative mood*, which is used to talk about facts or actual events. 

# The Subjunctive

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- **Vivo en California.**
- **Estudio para mis clases.**
- **Tengo la camisa negra.**

# The Subjunctive

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- Spanish has another way of using verbs called the subjunctive mood.

# The Subjunctive

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- We use it to say what someone does or doesn't want, needs, suggests, or recommends someone else to do. We also use it to express doubt.

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- Basically, we use to subjunctive mood to express things we would like others to do.


# The Subjunctive

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- Quiero que me ayudes con mi tarea.
- Le sugiero a mi amigo que piense antes de actuar.
- Es necesario que ellos estudien para la prueba.
- Es importante que nosotros no escuchemos “Viernes” por Rebecca Black.

# The Subjunctive

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- A sentence that includes the subjunctive form has two parts connected by the word *que*.
- For example: 



# The Subjunctive

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- Quiero que tú estudies tu lista verde.
- *(lit) I want that you study your Green List.*
- *I want you to study your green list.*

# The Subjunctive

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- Sugiero **que bebas** agua antes y despues de correr.
- *I suggest **that you drink** water before and after running.*


# The Subjunctive

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- El entrenador exige **que los atletas corran mucho**
- *The trainer demands **that the athletes run a lot***

# The Subjunctive

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- You can also suggest more general or impersonal ideas using expressions such as *es necesario... es bueno...* and *es importante...*, followed by *que* and a form of the present subjunctive. 

# The Subjunctive

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- Es necesario que hagas ejercicio.
- *It's necessary that you do exercise.*
- Es importante que los jóvenes coman bien.
- *It's important that the young people eat well.*

# The Subjunctive

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- Note that the subjunctive sentences have two parts, each with a different subject, connected by the word *que*:



# 2 Clauses

Ella sugiere que yo aprenda francés

**Main clause**  
(stands on its own)  
Subject > Verb

**Separated**  
by the  
word  
“que”


**Subordinate clause**  
(can't stand on its own)  
Begins with the word  
“que.”

**Indicative  
Verb**

**Subjunctive  
Verb**

# The Subjunctive

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- The first subject uses the present indicative verb (recommendation, suggestion, expression of desire, impersonal expression) + “que” and the second subject uses the present subjunctive verb (the desired  action).



# The Subjunctive

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- Some verbs that are often followed by “que” + subjunctive:
- Pedir (e→i)
- Insistir en
- Necesitar
- Desear
- Preferir (e→ie)
- Prohibir
- Querer (e > ie)
- Recomendar (e > ie)
- Sugerir (e > ie)
- Decir (e→i)

# The Subjunctive

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- Impersonal expressions that are often followed by “que”+subjunctive
- Es necesario que.
- Es importante que
- Es bueno que
- Es malo que

# Sometimes we do use the subjunctive without “que”

- We use the subjunctive after the word “cuando” ONLY when the event has not yet occurred. Notice that the second part of the sentence is in the future tense.
- Cuando era pequeño, iba al parque.
- When I was small, I used to go to the park.
- Cuando tenga 18 años, iré a Venezuela.
- When I am 18, I will go to Venezuela.

# The Subjunctive

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- To form the present subjunctive, we drop the -o of the present-tense indicative “yo” form and add the subjunctive endings.

# The Subjunctive

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- For -ar verbs:
  - e, es, e, emos, en
- For -er/-ir verbs:
  - a, as, a, amos, an



# HABLAR- To speak,talk

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hable

hablemos

hables

hable

hablen

# VIVIR

viva

vivamos

vivas

viva

vivan

# DECIR - to say/tell

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diga

digamos

digas

diga

digan



# Irregular Subjunctive Verbs

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- irregular verbs that add a “g” to the stem in the present-tense “yo” form also have a “g” in the present subjunctive. We know these as “go” verbs.

# Irregular Subjunctive “go” Verbs

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● venir

● decir

● hacer

● poner

● salir

● tener

● traer

# Irregular Subjunctive Verbs

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hacer → hag-o → haga

tener → teng-o → tenga

# Irregular Subjunctive Verbs

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- Also verbs ending in *-car*, *-gar* and *-zar* have a spelling change in order to maintain the original sound.

# Irregular Subjunctive Verbs

buscar → busco → **busque**

pagar → pago → **pague**

empezar → empiezo → **empiece**

↑  
Notice this crafty fox...it's also a "shoe" verb  
Empezar (e→ie)

# Other Important Irregular verbs in the subjunctive

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- Ser= Sea
- Ir= Vaya
- Saber= Sepa
- Dar= Dé (accents on all except “nosotros” form)
- Estar = Esté (accents on all except “nosotros” form)

# En resumen...

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- In a nutshell, we use the subjunctive mood when we express
- WANTS/DESIRES
- NEEDS
- PREFERENCES
- Por supuesto, hay más. Pero por ahora es suficiente.