

# Present Subjunctive Mood

There are three different types of verb “moods”:

1. **Indicative** – expresses real world events in the present, past and future tenses; This would be considered as statements and questions, such as:  
“The students are learning Spanish.” (statement in the present tense)  
“Are the students learning Spanish?” (question in the present tense)
2. **Subjunctive** – expresses “unreal world” events in the present, past and future tenses  
I will clean my room so that my mother may let me go out with my friends.
3. **Imperative** – expresses commands or orders only in the present tense  
“Tell me where you are going.” (command given in the present tense)

In order to form the subjunctive tense, a few things are necessary:

1. Two different subjects (what the sentence is about)
2. The word “que” to join the two parts of the sentence together
3. Words or phrases that will trigger the subjunctive mood

In order to conjugate a verb in the subjunctive mood, treat it as the opposite infinitive. This means –ar verbs will be conjugated as –er verbs, and –er/--ir verbs will be conjugated as –ar verbs.

Examples:

**hablar** - to speak; to talk

hable	hablemos
hables	habléis
hable	hablen

**comer** - to eat

coma	comamos
comas	comáis
coma	coman

**vivir** - to live

viva	vivamos
vivas	viváis
viva	vivan

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If the verb is irregular in the “yo” form in the present tense, then it will be irregular in the subjunctive.

**tener** - to have

tenga	tengamos
tengas	tengáis
tenga	tengan

**poder** - to be able; “can”

pueda	podamos
puedas	podáis
pueda	puedan

**conocer** - to know; to meet

conozca	conozcamos
conozcas	conozcáis
conozca	conozcan

Other verbs that will be irregular in the subjunctive form:

**ser** - to be

sea	seamos
seas	seáis
sea	sean

**estar** - to be

esté	estemos
estés	estéis
esté	estén

In order to set up a sentence in the present subjunctive, you will need to conjugate the first predicate (verb conjugated according to the subject) in the present indicative, and the second predicate in the subjunctive. See the examples in the next section.

There is an acronym that will help you remember when to use the subjunctive tense: WEDDING

**W**ant/wish  
**E**motion  
**D**oubt  
**D**enial  
**I**mpersonal Expression  
**N**eed  
**G**od

Remember that you need TWO different subjects in order to qualify for the subjunctive mood. Think of the “wedding” acronym: Two people get married. The “que” that links the two parts of the sentences

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## Want/Wish:

Verbs that would initiate this expression would be:

- querer – to want
- esperar – to hope
- desear – to wish

Example: **Espero** que mis padres me compren un caballito.  
*I hope that my parents buy me a pony.*

## Emotion:

Verbs that would initiate this expression would be:

- sentirse – to feel (an emotion)
- tener miedo – to be afraid

Example: La niña tiene miedo que un monstruo la coma.  
*The girl is afraid that the monster eats her.*

## Doubt:

Verbs that would initiate this expression would be:

- dudar – to doubt
- No poder a creer – not to be able to believe (indicates doubt)

Example: Pablo **duda** que su novia le ame.  
*Pablo doubts that his girlfriend loves him.*

## Denial:

Verb that indicates this expression would be:

- negar – to deny

Example: Tú **niegas** que tu hermano comita la crimen.  
*You deny that your brother commits the crime.*

## Impersonal Expression:

This is when the subject is not specified. Some example expressions would be:

- |                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Es posible que...    | <i>It's possible that...</i>  |
| Es importante que... | <i>It's important that...</i> |
| Es necesario que...  | <i>It's necessary that...</i> |
| Es bueno que...      | <i>It's good that...</i>      |

Example: **Es posible que** todos mis estudiantes reciban una "A".  
*It's possible that all of my students receive an "A".*

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## Need:

Verb that indicates this expression would be:  
necesitar – to need

Example: **Necesito** que mi hija lave los platos.  
*I need my daughter to wash the dishes.*

## God:

A word that triggers this expression would be:  
ojalá – “God willing”, from the Arabic word, “Allah”. It could also mean “hopefully” or the equivalence.

Example: **Ojalá** que mis estudiantes aprendan bien el subjunctive.  
*Will be to God that all of my students learn the subjunctive well.*  
*Hopefully all of my students learn the subjunctive well.*

\*\*Other expressions that trigger the subjunctive:

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. En caso (de) que.... | <i>In the case of....</i>              |
| 2. Sin que....          | <i>Without... / Unless....</i>         |
| 3. Con tal (de) que.... | <i>Provided that....</i>               |
| 4. Antes (de) que....   | <i>Before....</i>                      |
| 5. Para que....         | <i>So that.... / In order that....</i> |
| 6. A menos que....      | <i>Unless....</i>                      |

Examples of these:

1. Voy a estudiar **en caso de que** la maestra nos dé una prueba sorpresiva.  
*I am going to study in case the teacher gives us a pop quiz.*
2. Alejandro no comerá sus verduras **sin que** yo les ponga el queso.  
*Alejandro will not eat his vegetables unless I put cheese on them.*
3. Carolina va a la fiesta **con tal de que** sus padres le permite.  
*Carolina is going to the party, provided that her parents permit her.*
4. Tienes que tomar mucho agua **antes de que** visites el médico.  
*You have to drink a lot of water before you visit the doctor.*
5. Hago ejercicios **para que** sea sano.  
*I do exercises so that I am healthy.*
6. No voy a trabajar **a menos de que** me paguen dinero.  
*I am not going to work unless they pay me money.*