



# What Is the Subjunctive Mood?



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The subjunctive mood is all about how the verb (doing word) appears in a sentence.

Subjunctives make language sound more formal.

They can be used for:

- showing conditions that are not true;
- making a command more formal;
- making a wish more formal;
- making a request more formal.

Let's look at some examples.

# Using the Subjunctive Mood - Conditions That Are Not True

To do this, we can use the verb 'were' instead of 'was'.

This creates a more formal sentence.

Subjunctive Mood	Normal Verb Use
If I <b>were</b> the boss, I'd leave.	If I <b>was</b> the boss, I'd leave
If I <b>were</b> to be rude.	If I <b>was</b> going to be rude.
If that <b>were</b> the case, I would go.	If that <b>was</b> the case, I would go.

Can you say this sentence using the subjunctive mood?

"If I was rich, I'd buy a Ferrari."

"If I **were** rich, I'd buy a Ferrari."

# Using the Subjunctive Mood - Conditions That Are Not True

'Had' can also be used to create the subjunctive mood in sentences that show conditions that are not true.

Subjunctive Mood	Normal Verb Use
If I had known, I would have never gone.	Now that I know, I wish I hadn't gone.
If he had seen it, he would have loved it.	He didn't see it, but he would have loved it.

Notice that the sentences in the second column are quite different from the sentences in the first column. This is because the sentences in the first column need the subjunctive mood to make sense.

# Using the Subjunctive Mood - Commands

We can use the subjunctive mood if we want to make an indirect command sound formal. Remember, it's all about the verb!



Using 'to be' instead (called the infinitive verb).

The teacher requires you to be present in P.E.



**Subjunctive Mood**

The teacher **demand**s that you be present in P.E.

Notice that the verb in bold has been changed to further reflect the subjunctive mood.



# Using the Subjunctive Mood - Wishes

We can use the subjunctive mood if we want to make an indirect wish sound formal. Remember, it's all about the verb!



Using 'to be' instead (called the infinitive verb).  
King Henry wants all of his wives **to be** beheaded.



**Subjunctive Mood**  
King Henry wishes that all of his wives **be** beheaded.

Notice that the verb in bold has been changed to further reflect the subjunctive mood.

# Using the Subjunctive Mood - Requests

We can use the subjunctive mood if we want to make an indirect request sound formal. Remember, it's all about the verb!



Using 'to be' instead (called the infinitive verb).

Our queen asks you **to be** at the palace gates for 9am.



**Subjunctive Mood**

Our queen **requests** you **be** at the palace gates for 9am.

Notice that the verb in bold has been changed to further reflect the subjunctive mood.

