

Subjunctive Mood

Part A

For each question, tick the box next to the sentence that is written using the subjunctive mood and underline the subjunctive verb.

- If I were chosen, I would do my best.
- If you choose me, I would do my best.
- I request that she demand a recount in the election.
- I have requested that she demands a recount in the election.
- Honesty is part of our school rules.
- Our school rules require that all children be honest.
- The head teacher demanded that she attend the important meeting.
- The head teacher demanded her attendance at the important meeting.
- The detective knew nothing about the secret so he could not solve the crime.
- If the detective had known the secret, he would have solved the crime.

Subjunctive Mood

Part B

1. Here's a request that uses the subjunctive mood. Can you write another request in the same style? Underline the phrase that makes the request subjunctive.

It is requested that you be dressed appropriately for the formal dinner.

2. Here's a command in the subjunctive mood. Can you write another command in the same style? Underline the phrase that makes the command subjunctive. You can use a thesaurus to find suitable verbs to match the subjunctive mood.

The judge requires you to be standing while the sentence is delivered.

3. Here's a wish in the subjunctive mood. Can you write another wish in the same style? Underline the phrase that makes the wish subjunctive. You can use a thesaurus again.

The Lord Mayor hereby wishes that all applaud the victorious United team.

4. Here's a subjunctive for a condition that's not true. Can you write another in the same style? Underline the phrase that makes the request subjunctive.

If they had played like they did last week, they would have won the game.

5. Are these sentences in the subjunctive? And are they requests (R), commands (C), wishes (W) or conditions that are not true (Cond)?

Sentence	Subjunctive Y/N	R, C, W, Cond
Get out of the car immediately!		
He demanded that she apologise immediately for her behaviour.		
I want a bike for Christmas.		
If I had been in charge, I wouldn't have allowed it.		
The doctors have suggested that he stay in bed.		
You'll know where it is if you put it in the cupboard.		

6. Why might you use the subjunctive mood in your writing?

★ ★ Challenge Task ★ ★

The subjunctive mood is not used as much in English as it is in other languages. It tends to be used in formal situations and for formal writing.

Write a series of paragraphs for different formal purposes that include at least one example of a sentence in the subjunctive mood. Some ideas are:

- A royal invitation;
- A play depicting a court scene;
- An instruction leaflet;
- A letter from or to the headteacher;
- Part of a story containing speech of a character with a formal manner.

These words might be useful:

advise	had	recommend	that
ask	if... were	request	vital
command	imperative	require	warn
crucial	important	require	wish
demand	insist	should be	
essential	instruct	suggest	

Subjunctive Mood Answers

For each question, tick the box next to the sentence that is written using the subjunctive mood and underline the subjunctive verb.

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If you choose me, I would do my best.

I request that she demand a recount in the election.

I have requested that she demands a recount in the election.

Honesty is part of our school rules.

Our school rules require that all children be honest.

The head teacher demanded that she attend the important meeting.

The head teacher demanded her attendance at the important meeting.

The detective knew nothing about the secret so he could not solve the crime.

If the detective had known the secret, he would have solved the crime.

Subjunctive Mood Answers

1. Here's a request that uses the subjunctive mood. Can you write another request in the same style? Underline the phrase that makes the request subjunctive.

It is requested that you be dressed appropriately for the formal dinner.

Any answer presented as formal requests and underlining 'to be'.

2. Here's a command in the subjunctive mood. Can you write another command in the same style? Underline the phrase that makes the command subjunctive. You can use a thesaurus to find suitable verbs to match the subjunctive mood.

The judge requires you to be standing while the sentence is delivered.

Any answer presented as formal command and underlining the 'be' phrase.

3. Here's a wish in the subjunctive mood. Can you write another wish in the same style? Underline the phrase that makes the wish subjunctive. You can use a thesaurus again.

The Lord Mayor hereby wishes that all applaud the victorious United team.

Any answer presented as formal wish and underlining the 'that' phrase.

4. Here's a subjunctive for a condition that's not true. Can you write another in the same style? Underline the phrase that makes the request subjunctive.

If they had played like they did last week, they would have won the game.

Any answer with an untrue condition and underlining the 'if... had' phrase.

5. Are these sentences in the subjunctive? And are they requests (R), commands (C), wishes (W) or conditions that are not true (Cond)?

Sentence	Subjunctive Y/N	R, C, W, Cond
Get out of the car immediately!	N	C
He demanded that she apologise immediately for her behaviour.	Y	C
I want a bike for Christmas.	N	W
If I had been in charge, I wouldn't have allowed it.	Y	Cond
The doctors have suggested that he stay in bed.	Y	R/C
You'll know where it is if you put it in the cupboard.	N	Cond

6. Why might you use the subjunctive mood in your writing?

To give the writing a more formal tone.