

Subjunctive: irregular

Spanish · British English › Spanish

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The Present Subjunctive: Irregular Verbs

Hello there! Today, we're diving into the world of the Spanish Subjunctive, focusing on its most exciting part – **irregular verbs**! The Subjunctive mood is used to express wishes, emotions, doubts, opinions, or necessities. Unlike the Indicative mood, it doesn't describe facts but rather the speaker's subjective attitude or perspective.

Remember, the Subjunctive often appears in subordinate clauses, introduced by **que** after certain expressions (e.g., *Espero que...* – I hope that..., *Quiero que...* – I want that...).

Introductory Expression + **que** + Subject + **Present Subjunctive Verb**

Types of Irregularities

- Verbs with an irregular **yo** form in the Present Indicative: Many verbs that have an irregular **yo** form in the Present Indicative (e.g., *hago* from *hacer*) derive their irregular stem for the entire Present Subjunctive from this **yo** form.
- Stem-changing verbs: These verbs change the vowel in their stem (**e>ie**, **o>ue**, **e>i**). In the Present Subjunctive, these changes occur in all persons except **nosotros/vosotros**. Additionally, **-IR** verbs (e.g., *dormir*, *sentir*, *pedir*) have a further vowel reduction in **nosotros/vosotros** (**e>i**, **o>u**).
- Completely irregular verbs: A few verbs have unique, irregular forms that simply need to be memorised.

Examples of Irregular Verbs

Here are some of the most important irregular verbs in the Present Subjunctive:

Verb (Infinitive)	yo	tú	él/ella/Ud.	nosotros/as	vosotros/as	ellos/as/Uds.
ser	sea	seas	sea	seamos	seáis	sean
ir	vaya	vayas	vaya	vayamos	vayáis	vayan
saber	sepa	sepas	sepa	sepamos	sepáis	sepan
haber	haya	hayas	haya	hayamos	hayáis	hayan
estar	esté	estés	esté	estemos	estéis	estén
dar	dé	des	dé	demos	deis	den

Do you remember these 6 verbs? They're easy to remember with the acronym **DISSHES** (D-ar, I-r, S-er, S-aber, H-aber, E-star)! These are the most irregular ones!

Verb (Infinitive)	yo	tú	él/ella/Ud.	nosotros/as	vosotros/as	ellos/as/Uds.
hacer	haga	hagas	haga	hagamos	hagáis	hagan

Verb (Infinitive)	yo	tú	él/ella/Ud.	nosotros/as	vosotros/as	ellos/as/ Uds.
tener	tenga	tengas	tenga	tengamos	tengáis	tengan
conocer	conozca	conozcas	conozca	conozcamos	conozcáis	conozcan

For stem-changing verbs like *pensar* (e>ie), *volver* (o>ue), or *pedir* (e>i), the vowel change is maintained in all persons except **nosotros/vosotros**. For -IR verbs (e.g., *dormir*, *sentir*, *pedir*), there's a further vowel reduction in **nosotros/vosotros** (e>i, o>u).

Verb (Infinitive)	yo	tú	él/ella/Ud.	nosotros/as	vosotros/as	ellos/as/ Uds.
pensar (e>ie)	piense	pienses	piense	pensemos	penséis	piensen
volver (o>ue)	vuelva	vuelvas	vuelva	volvamos	volváis	vuelvan
pedir (e>i)	pida	pidas	pida	pidamos	pidáis	pidan

Espero que hagas tu cama.

I hope that you make your bed.

No creo que vuelvan tarde.

I don't think they'll come back late.

Watch out! A common mistake is using Indicative forms instead of the Subjunctive, especially after expressions like *no creo que* (I don't think that) or *espero que* (I hope that). Always double-check if the context requires the Subjunctive!

Remember, practice makes perfect! The more you use these irregular Subjunctive forms, the more natural they'll become. ¡Mucha suerte!

Part 1 – Choose the correct word

Circle the option that correctly fills each gap.

1. Te sugiero que _____ a caminar un poco.

I suggest you go out for a short walk.

A) salgas B) salga C) sales D) salimos

2. No quiero que _____ nada sobre esto.

I don't want them to say anything about it.

A) digan B) digas C) decimos D) dicen

3. Espero que _____ los documentos mañana.

I hope you bring the documents tomorrow.

A) traigas B) traigamos C) traes D) traéis

4. Espero que _____ lo que te explico.

I hope you understand what I'm explaining to you.

A) entienda B) entendéis C) entiendas D) entiendes

5. Espero que _____ venir con nosotros.

I hope you want to come with us.

A) quieras B) quieres C) queramos D) quiero

6. Es importante que _____ la verdad siempre.

It's important that you always tell the truth.

A) digamos B) dices C) decís D) digas

7. Me alegro de que vosotros _____ la ciudad tan bien.

I'm glad you know the city so well.

A) conocéis B) conozcáis C) conozcamos D) conozcan

8. Espero que tú _____ feliz con tu nuevo trabajo.

I hope you will be happy in your new job.

A) eres B) sois C) sea D) seas

Part 2 – Fill in the gap

Write the missing word or phrase on the line.

1. No quiero que _____ su oportunidad de viajar.

I don't want him to lose his chance to travel.

2. Dudo que _____ ganas de ir al parque.

I doubt they feel like going to the park.

3. No creo que _____ a mucha gente aquí.

I don't think he knows many people here.

4. Mis padres quieren que yo les _____ un regalo.

My parents want me to give them a present.

5. Le pido que _____ el libro en la estantería.

I'm asking him to put the book on the shelf.

6. Ojalá _____ ayudarte con tu problema.

I hope I can help you with your problem.

Part 3 – Translate

Write each word in Spanish on the line.

1. to prefer › _____

2. to return › _____

3. to go out › _____

4. to choose › _____

5. to feel › _____

6. there to be › _____

Part 4 – Match the pairs

Write the letter of the matching translation next to each term.

Term		Translation	
1.	seguir	A	to go
2.	recoger	B	to do
3.	ir	C	to hear
4.	oír	D	to distinguish
5.	hacer	E	to pick up
6.	distinguir	F	to follow
7.	dormir	G	to serve
8.	servir	H	to sleep

Answer Key

Part 1 – Choose the correct word

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. A) salgas | 5. A) quieras |
| 2. A) digan | 6. D) digas |
| 3. A) traigas | 7. B) conozcáis |
| 4. C) entiendas | 8. D) seas |

Part 2 – Fill in the gap

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| 1. pierda | 4. dé |
| 2. tengan | 5. ponga |
| 3. conozca | 6. pueda |

Part 3 – Translate

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| 1. preferir | 4. elegir |
| 2. volver | 5. sentir |
| 3. salir | 6. haber |

Part 4 – Match the pairs

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. F (to follow) | 5. B (to do) |
| 2. E (to pick up) | 6. D (to distinguish) |
| 3. A (to go) | 7. H (to sleep) |
| 4. C (to hear) | 8. G (to serve) |