

Subjunctive: linkers

Spanish · British English › Spanish

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Using the Subjunctive: Purpose and Reason

Hello there! Today we're diving into the world of the Spanish subjunctive mood, or **Subjuntivo**. We'll learn how to use it to express **purpose** (why we do something) and **reason** (why something happens), especially in specific, uncertain contexts. This is a key skill for B1 level learners!

Expressing Purpose (Para que...)

When we want to say **why** we do something, or express the **purpose** of an action, we use conjunctions like **para que**, **a fin de que**, or **con el fin de que**. These are **always** followed by a verb in the **Subjuntivo**, especially when the subjects in both parts of the sentence are different.

Main clause + **para que / a fin de que** + Subjuntivo

Te lo digo para que lo sepas.

I'm telling you this so that you know.

Pronoun	Subjunctive (Saber)	Subjunctive (Comer)
yo	sepa	coma
tú	sepas	comas
él/ella/usted	sepa	coma
nosotros/as	sepamos	comamos
vosotros/as	sepáis	comáis
ellos/ellas/ustedes	sepan	coman

Expressing Reason/Condition (No porque, Sin que, Aunque, etc.)

The **Subjuntivo** is also used in clauses expressing a reason when that reason is **negated**, **uncertain**, **hypothetical**, or **not a fact**. Here are some key conjunctions:

- ¡**No porque**! (not because) – used when we deny a given reason. After **no porque**, always use the Subjunctive.
- ¡**Sin que**! (without...ing) – expresses the absence of a circumstance, always followed by the Subjunctive.
- ¡**Aunque**! (although, even if) – use the Subjunctive when expressing a **hypothesis** or **uncertainty** about the truth of an event.
- ¡**A menos que / A no ser que**! (unless) – introduces a condition or exception, always with the Subjunctive.
- ¡**En caso de que**! (in case that) – expresses a hypothetical situation, always with the Subjunctive.
- ¡**Antes de que**! (before) – refers to a future, often hypothetical action, always with the Subjunctive.

No lo hago porque me lo pidas tú.

I'm not doing it because you ask me to (implies: I'm doing it for another reason).

Se fue sin que nadie lo supiera.

He left without anyone knowing.

Te llamo en caso de que venga mi hermana.

I'll call you in case my sister comes.

Heads up! Don't confuse **porque** (because) with **no porque**! **Porque** introduces a true, confirmed reason and always takes the **Indicativo**. However, **no porque** negates the reason and requires the **Subjuntivo**.

No lo hago **porque me obligues**.

~~No lo hago **porque me obligas**.~~

After **no porque**, always use the **Subjuntivo** when rejecting a reason.

Memory tip! When you want to express purpose, think of **P.A.S.A.** (Para que, A fin de que, Sin que, Antes de que) – all these constructions require the **Subjuntivo**! For uncertain reasons, add **NO** before **PORQUE**.

Practise these structures, and the **Subjuntivo** will become natural for you! ¡Mucha suerte!

Part 1 – Choose the correct word

Circle the option that correctly fills each gap.

1. Aunque _____ tarde, te esperaré.

Even if it is late, I will wait for you.

A) es B) sea C) seamos D) seas

2. Te lo explico para que lo _____ bien.

I'm explaining it so that you do it right.

A) haces B) hace C) hagamos D) hagas

3. Lo compro, no porque me _____ el color, sino por el precio.

I'm buying it, not because I like the colour, but because of the price.

A) gusten B) gustaría C) gustas D) guste

4. Te doy el dinero para que _____ al cine.

I'm giving you the money so that you can go to the cinema.

A) vayamos B) vas C) vayas D) vayan

5. Te doy la lista para que _____ la fiesta.

I'm giving you the list so that you can organise the party.

A) organicemos B) organizas C) organiza D) organices

6. Te ayudo para que _____ mejor.

I'm helping you so you study better.

A) estudia B) estudies C) estudias D) estudiemos

7. Mientras no _____ las instrucciones, no lo toques.

As long as you haven't read the instructions, don't touch it.

A) leyeras B) leas C) leerás D) lees

8. A menos que _____ la respuesta, no hables.

Unless you know the answer, don't say anything.

A) sabes B) sabe C) sepa D) sepas

Part 2 – Fill in the gap

Write the missing word or phrase on the line.

1. Pasan sin que nadie los _____.
They go past without anyone seeing them.
2. No te rindas hasta que no _____ más.
Don't give up until you can't anymore.
3. Despídete antes de que se _____.
Say goodbye before they leave.
4. Cuando _____ listo, salimos.
When you are ready, we'll leave.
5. Lleva paraguas en caso de que _____ el tuyo.
Take an umbrella in case you forget yours.
6. Esperaré aquí hasta que _____.
I'll wait here until you return.

Part 3 – Translate

Write each word in Spanish on the line.

1. to arrive › _____
2. to receive › _____
3. to come › _____
4. to help › _____
5. to do › _____
6. to need › _____

Part 4 – Match the pairs

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

Term	Translation
1. encontrar	A to get to know
2. comprar	B to live
3. escribir	C to work
4. trabajar	D to buy
5. mejorar	E to find
6. conocer	F to call
7. vivir	G to write
8. llamar	H to improve

Answer Key

Part 1 — Choose the correct word

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. B) sea | 5. D) organices |
| 2. D) hagas | 6. B) estudies |
| 3. D) guste | 7. B) leas |
| 4. C) vayas | 8. D) sepas |

Part 2 — Fill in the gap

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| 1. vea | 4. estés |
| 2. puedas | 5. olvides |
| 3. vayan | 6. vuelvas |

Part 3 — Translate

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. llegar | 4. ayudar |
| 2. recibir | 5. hacer |
| 3. venir | 6. necesitar |

Part 4 — Match the pairs

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. E (to find) | 5. H (to improve) |
| 2. D (to buy) | 6. A (to get to know) |
| 3. G (to write) | 7. B (to live) |
| 4. C (to work) | 8. F (to call) |