

SPANISH

LEAVING CERTIFICATE HIGHER LEVEL

THE SUBJUNCTIVE



THE DUBLIN
ACADEMY OF
EDUCATION

El Subjuntivo – The Subjunctive Mood 🤔

What is the Subjunctive?

- The subjunctive mood is a collection of verb tenses that are all linked to the idea of doubt and uncertainty.
- It is always triggered by something that happens earlier on in the sentence, and even though it's difficult to get your head around, it is a massive rule follower. So for once, we don't have to worry about exceptions!
- To make sure that you've revised the subjunctive enough before your exam, here is a checklist to complete.

Do I know....

1. What the subjunctive is?	
2. What things trigger the subjunctive?	
3. What phrases I tend to use that trigger the subjunctive?	
4. How to form regular verbs?	
5. How to form the 6 irregular verbs (DISHES)	
6. How to pronounce the verbs I use correctly for my oral exam?	

How am I going to learn this?

1. What triggers the subjunctive
2. How to restructure a sentence that requires the subjunctive
3. How to form regular subjunctive verbs
4. What irregular verbs I need to learn off

What is a mood in Grammar? 🤖

- A grammatical mood is like a family of verb tenses.
- The mood is like the parents/surname, and the tenses are like the names of the kids.
- The indicative mood is the family that all of the tenses you've learned so far (tenses 1-9 on the timeline of verb tenses) belong to
- The subjunctive mood is the other family/mood that we are going to learn about now.
- The subjunctive only appears in a sentence if it's been triggered to do so.
- The part of the sentence with the trigger in it will have a normal (indicative) verb in it, and the verb that comes immediately after the trigger will be in the subjunctive.

The Indicative versus the Subjunctive Mood

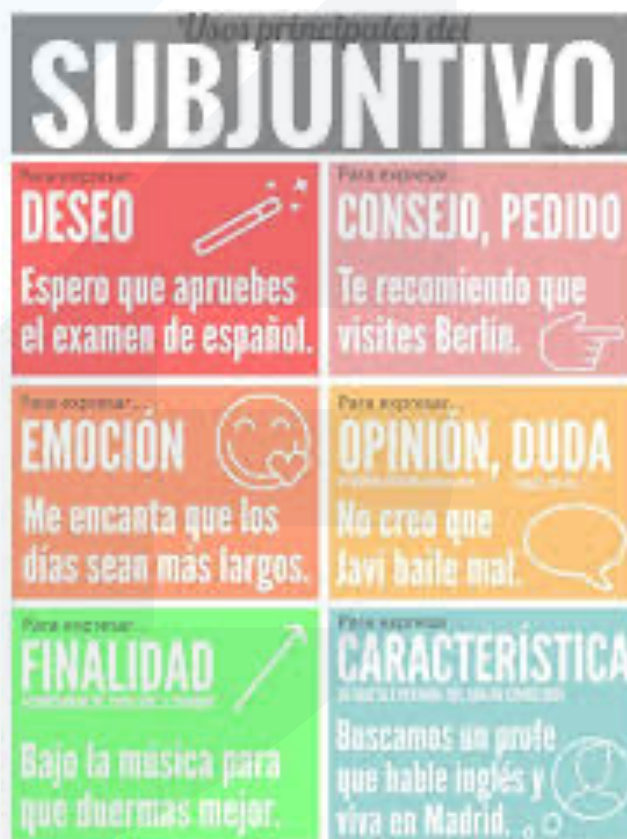
Indicative	Subjunctive
Keyword :	Keyword :

Where does the subjunctive go in a sentence? 🧐

- The subjunctive is usually triggered by something in the main clause, and it appears in the other part of the sentence, called the subordinate clause.
- Trigger = main clause
- Subjunctive = subordinate clause

What triggers the subjunctive?

- Let's think about the subjunctive as a mean, moany neighbour.
- This neighbour will knock on your door every single time you do something to annoy/trigger them, but they won't appear for any other reason.
- So we only need to see this neighbour if we've done something to make them knock on the door → We only need to use the subjunctive if we've done something earlier in the sentence to make it appear.
- There are 6 specific things that make the subjunctive appear.
- Easiest way to remember them is by remembering that **The Subjunctive is a WEIRDO.**



The 7 Things that Trigger the Subjunctive – WEIRDO

Wants		
Emotions		
It is _____ that		
Recommendations		
Doubts		
Opinions in the Negative		
Ójala		

Forming the Present Subjunctive – Regular Verbs

- The regular verbs in the present subjunctive are actually very easy to form. Follow these steps:
 1. Find the verb's first person (yo) conjugation in the normal present tense (the first tense you ever learned in school) → This also works for verbs that are different in their first person, such as Tengo, Conozco, etc...
 2. Drop the "o" from that conjugation
 3. Add the following endings:

Person/Subject	AR Verbs (eg. Hablar)	IR/ER Verbs (eg. Vivir/Comer)
Yo	E	A
Tú	Es	As
Él/Ella	E	A
Nosotros	Emos	Amos
Vosotros	éis	áis
Ellos/Ellas	En	An

So, your verbs will kind of look like they've all swapped their endings with each other!

HABLAR	COMER	VIVIR
Hable	Coma	Viva
Hables	Comas	Vivas
Hable	Coma	Viva
Hablemos	Comamos	Vivamos
Habléis	Comáis	Viváis
Hablen	Coman	Vivan

Irregular Verbs in the Present Subjunctive

- There are only 6 common irregular verbs in the Present Subjunctive
- These 6 verbs do not follow the rules from part 7, which is why they are irregular
- A lot of people struggle with remembering the irregular verbs, as verbs such as Tener, which are regular in the Present Indicative, follow the rules for regular verbs in the Subjunctive mood
- All we have to remember for these irregular verbs is **DISHES**

	Dar To Give	Ir To Go	Ser To Be	Hay There is	Estar To Be	Saber To Know
Yo	Dé	Vaya	Sea	Haya	Esté	Sepa
Tú	Dés	Vayas	Seas	Hayas	Estés	Sepas
Él/Ella	Dé	Vaya	Sea	Haya	Esté	Sepa
Nosotros	Demos	Vayamos	Seamos	Hayamos	Estemos	Sepamos
Vosotros	Deis	Vayáis	Seáis	Hayáis	Estéis	Sepáis
Ellos/as	Den	Vayan	Sean	Hayan	Estén	Sepan

1. Te recomiendo que (ir) _____ a la playa
2. Es importante que (saber) _____ los verbos para aprobar sus exámenes
3. Es bueno que (estar) _____ de buen humor después de la clase
4. Es aconsejable que (ser) _____ una buena persona durante tu vida entera
5. No creo que te (dar) _____ un regalo, es una persona barata

What triggers the Subjunctive Mood?

- Generally, there must be some uncertainty or subjectivity to trigger the use of the subjunctive, so sentences that start with things like “I doubt that”, “I’m not sure if”, “I am uncertain if/whether”, will often be followed with a subjunctive
- The best trigger word to keep in mind is QUE, as 9/10 trigger words for the subjunctive are followed by QUE

Subjunctive Trigger Phrases

1. Set Phrases dealing with Time

A menos que - Unless

Antes (de) que - Before

Cuando - When

Después (de) que - After

Dudar que - To doubt that

Mientras que - While

Hasta que - Until

2. Expressing Emotion about Something

Es *bueno* (insert any adjective here) que - It’s good that

Es difícil que - It’s unlikely/difficult that

Es incierto que - It’s uncertain that

Es (una) lástima que - It’s a pity that

Es necesario que - It’s necessary that

Esperar que - To wish that

Estar contento que - To be happy that

Es terrible que - It’s terrible that

3. Expressing Uncertainty/ Making Recommendations

No creer que - Not to believe that → EXPRESSES DOUBT

No pensar que - Not to think that → EXPRESSES DOUBT

No es cierto que - It's not certain that

No estar seguro de que - To not be sure that

No parecer que - To not seem that

No suponer que → *no supongo que - I do not suppose that* → to not suppose that

Ojalá que - Hopefully

Para que - So that

Puede ser que - It may be that

Recomendar que - To recommend that

EXPRESSING WANTS/WISHES

Here is a list of common expressions that introduce an aspect of desire to the sentence, and therefore trigger the use of the subjunctive.

esperar que - to wish that ... / to expect that...

insistir en que ... - to insist that ...

mandar que ... - to order that ...

preferir que ... - to prefer that ...

prohibir que ... - to prohibit that ...

querer que ... - to want that ...

es aconsejable que ... - it's advisable that ...

es necesario que ... - it's necessary that ...

pedir que ... - to ask that ...

recomendar que ... - to recommend that ...

rogar que ... - to plead that ...

sugerir que ... - to suggest that ...

Within this category we can include expressions that you can use to modify or have an impact on someone's behaviour:

Quiero que vayas a la tienda - I want you to go to the shop

Espero que vayas a la tienda - I expect you to go to the shop

Me gustaría que vayas a la tienda - I would like you to go to the shop

Preferiría que vayas a la tienda - I would prefer that you go to the shop

Te exijo que vayas a la tienda - I demand that you go to the shop

Please notice - it is a very common mistake for English speakers to forget to use the subjunctive in this kind of sentence and use an infinitive construction instead. This is always wrong:

I want you to be on time - **Quiero que seas puntual** (NOT "~~Quiero que tú ser puntual~~")

EXPRESSING DOUBT

We use the subjunctive to introduce an aspect of ignorance or doubt to a sentence, to express uncertainty about what is just about what is going to be said.

Here is a list of common expressions that introduce that aspect of ignorance or doubt:

dudar que ... to doubt that ...
es dudoso que ... it is doubtful that ...
es improbable que ... it's unlikely that ...
es incierto que ... it's uncertain that ...
es posible que ... it's possible that ...
negar que ... to deny that ...
puede ser que ... it may be that ...
quizá (or “quizás”)... perhaps , maybe...
no es verdad que ... it's not true that ...
no es cierto que ... it's not certain that ...
no imaginarse que ... to not imagine that ...
temer que ... to suspect that ...
no creer que ... not to believe that ...
no es cierto que ... it's not certain that ...
no estar convencido de que ... to not be convinced that ...
no estar seguro de que ... to not be sure that ...
no parecer que ... to not seem that ...
no pensar que ... to not think that ...
no suponer que ... to not suppose that ...

Please notice that the last few sentences are all negative. Their equivalent affirmative versions (“Creo que”, “es cierto que” ...) do not require the use of the subjunctive, as they do not introduce an element of doubt.

IMPERSONAL EXPRESSIONS (It is _____ that)

Here is a list of common impersonal expressions that introduce an aspect of uncertainty or subjectivity, and therefore trigger the use of the subjunctive.

conviene que ... it is advisable that ...
es aconsejable que ... it is advisable that ...
es bueno que ... it's good that ...
es difícil que ... it's unlikely that ...
es dudoso que ... it's doubtful that ...
es fácil que ... it's likely that ...
es fantástico que ... it's fantastic that ...
es importante que ... it's important that ...
es imposible que ... it's impossible that ...
es improbable que ... it's unlikely that ...
es incierto que ... it's uncertain that ...
es increíble que ... it's incredible that ...
es (una) lástima que ... it's a shame that ...
es malo que ... it's bad that ...
es mejor que ... it's better that ...
es menester que ... it's necessary that ...
es necesario que ... it's necessary that ...
es posible que ... it's possible that ...
es preciso que ... it's necessary that ...
es preferible que ... it's preferable that ...
es probable que ... it's likely that ...
es raro que ... it's rare that ...
es ridículo que ... it's ridiculous that ...
es terrible que ... it's terrible that ...

(as a general rule, always use the subjunctive with expressions that follow the pattern “es + adjective + que”, unless you use “innegable”, “cierto”, “verdadero”, “obvio”, “evidente”, “real” or a few other adjectives which express complete certainty)

más vale que ... it's better that ...
ojalá que ... if only he would ...
puede ser que ... it could be that ...

INCOMPLETE ACTIONS

Here is a list of common expressions that may indicate that the action that follows has not yet been completed. These expressions will **always** invoke the subjunctive:

a menos que ... unless ...
antes (de) que ... before ...
con tal (de) que ... provided that ...
en caso de que ... in case ...
para que ... so that ...
sin que ... without ...

The following expressions only invoke the subjunctive when they indicate that the action that follows has not yet been completed:

después de que... after...
en cuanto... as soon as...
hasta que... until...
mientras que... while...
tan pronto como... as soon as...
Cuando + future plan ... when...

AHORA PRACTICA:

a. Which mood, indicative or subjunctive, has been used in the following sentences?

1. Creo que ellos no están en la casa.
2. Quiero que su hijo haga los deberes.
3. Es importante que los alumnos estudien cada día.
4. Es necesario que tú me escuches.
5. Es cierto que ella viene mañana.
6. Es dudoso que tengas la gripe.
7. Es probable que ellos vuelvan el año que viene.
8. Es necesario que tu marido me llame.
9. Ella teme que los alumnos no estudien.
10. Ella prefiere que salgamos esta tarde.

b. Explain why the indicative or the subjunctive mood has been used in the sentences in activity a.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

C. Conjugate the following regular verbs in the present tense of the subjunctive.

Ejemplo:

escuchar: *escuche escuches escuche escuchemos escuchéis escuchen*

1. Subir:

2. Trabajar:

3. amar:

4. beber:

5. Ordenar:

6. Correr:

7. Vivir:

8. Caminar:

d. Conjugate the following verbs that have irregular "yo" forms in the present indicative.

Ejemplo:

caber: quepa, quepas, quepa, quepamos, quepáis, quepan

1. Conocer

2. Salir

3. Poner

4. Hacer

5. Ver

e. Conjugate the following stem-changing verbs.

Ejemplo:

mostrar: *muestre, muestres, muestre, mostremos, mostréis, muestren*

1. Volver

2. Encontrar

3. Morir

4. Dormir

5. Advertir

f. Select the correct present tense subjunctive conjugation for the following spelling changing verbs.

1. yo (empezar): empiezo empeize empiece
2. tú (escoger): escoges escogas escojas
3. Juan y yo (elegir): eligimos eligamos elijamos
4. ustedes (seguir): siguen siguan sigan
5. Carmen (buscar): busca busce busque
6. las niñas (huir): huyen huan huyan

g. Write the correct form of present tense subjunctive for the following spelling changing verbs.

1. recomenzar (e:ie): yo
2. conseguir (e:i): ella
3. coger: yo
4. reelegir (e:i): él
5. influir: las chicas
6. contribuir: Juan, María, y yo
7. indicar: tú
8. dedicar: tú
9. significar: Pablo

10. excluir: tú y yo

11. perseguir (e:i): el gato

12. ubicar: aquellos hombres

h. Select the correct present tense subjunctive conjugation for the following irregular verbs.

1. yo (dar): doy daba di dé

2. tú (estar): estás estabas estuviste estés

3. Juan y yo (haber): hemos habíamos hubimos hayamos

4. ustedes (ir): van iban fueron vayan

5. Carmen (saber): sabe sabía supo sepa

6. las niñas (ser): son eran fueron sean

i. Write the correct present tense subjunctive conjugation for the following irregular verbs.

1. dar: tú

2. estar: la mujer

3. haber: el hombre

4. ir: yo

5. ir: los estudiantes

6. saber: nosotros

7. ser: tú

8. dar: vosotros

9. ir: Mónica

11. estar: yo

12. saber: tú y yo

13. dar: los perros

14. ir: tú y yo

15. saber: aquellas mujeres

j. VERBS OF DESIRE: Write the correct present tense subjunctive conjugation for the given infinitive, unless the indicative mood is required.

1. I want you-all to buy a house:

Yo quiero que ustedes _____ una casa(comprar)

2. We wish that you would come to my party:

Esperamos que tú _____ a mi fiesta.

(venir)

3. The teacher insists that the students practice every day:

El profe insiste en que los alumnos _____ todos los días. (practicar)

4. The father orders that the child not yell:

El padre manda que el niño no _____. (gritar)

5. I recommend that you read this book:

Yo recomiendo que tú _____ este libro.(leer)

6. I think that the boys steal:

Creo que los chicos _____. (robar)

7. The mother forbids that her daughter go out with the boy:

La madre prohíbe que su hija _____ con el chico. (salir)

8. It is advisable that you sleep eight hours every night:

Es aconsejable que usted _____ ocho horas cada noche (dormir)

9. It's necessary that she buy groceries.

Es necesario que ella _____ comestibles. (comprar)

10. He wants me to write a card:

Él quiere que yo _____ una postal. (escribir)

11. The boys hope the girls come to the party.

Los chicos esperan que las chicas _____ a la fiesta. (venir)

12. The teacher orders the students not to speak in class:

El profesor manda que los alumnos no _____ en clase. (hablar)

13. The dogs prefer that their humans serve large bones:

Los perros prefieren que sus humanos _____ huesos grandes.
(servir) (e:i)

14. We recommend that you do exercise:

Recomendamos que usted _____ ejercicio. (hacer)

15. The man begged that the woman not sing: El hombre ruega que la mujer no
_____. (cantar)

16. The boss forbids that his employees talk:

El jefe prohíbe que sus empleados _____. (hablar)

17. It is advisable that you exercise every day:

Es aconsejable que usted _____ ejercicios cada día. (hacer)

18. It's necessary that we sell the farm:

Es necesario que nosotros _____ la granja. (vender)

k. DOUBT: Write the correct present tense subjunctive conjugation for the given infinitive, unless the indicative mood is required.

1. I doubt that you-all swim well:

Yo dudo que ustedes _____ bien. (nadar)

2. It's doubtful that you speak Chinese:

Es improbable que tú _____ chino. (hablar)

3. It's uncertain that they still live in France:

Es incierto que ellos todavía _____ en Francia. (vivir)

4. It's true that the boy doesn't study much:

Es cierto que el chaval no _____ mucho. (estudiar)

5. It's not true that we are married.

No es cierto que nosotros _____ casados. (estar)

6. The parents aren't convinced that he is the ideal husband for their daughter:

Los padres no están convencidos de que él _____ el marido ideal para su hija. (ser)

7. It doesn't look like it is going to rain:

No parece que _____ a llover. (ir)

8. The plumber doesn't suppose that there is enough work for him:

El fontanero no supone que _____ suficiente trabajo para él. (haber)

9. It's true that I am from Spain:

Es verdad que yo _____ de España (ser)

10. She denies that her brother is a troubled boy:

Ella niega que su hermano _____ un chico conflictivo. (ser)

11. It's not true that he manages the company:

No es verdad que él _____ la empresa. (dirigir)

12. It's not certain that he has a girlfriend:

No es cierto que él _____ novia. (tener)

13. I fear that Luis won't pass the test:

Temo que Luis no _____ el examen. (pasar)

14. I think that Juan loves María.

Creo que Juan _____ a María. (amar)

15. It's improbable that we'll get lost.

Es improbable que nosotros nos _____. (perderse)

16. I don't think that he is a bad boy:

No creo que él _____ un mal chico. (ser)

17. Carmen and I don't doubt that the cats are sad:

Carmen y yo no dudamos que los gatos están _____ tristes. (estar)

18. It's not true that Álvaro works:

No es cierto que Álvaro _____. (trabajar)

I. IMPERSONAL EXPRESSIONS: For each infinitive, write the correct present tense subjunctive conjugation.

1. It's beneficial that you-all buy a cat:

Conviene que ustedes _____ un gato. (comprar)

2. It's good that she runs at least three times a week:

Es bueno que ella _____ por lo menos tres veces a la semana.
(correr)

3. It's doubtful that my niece doesn't want to comb her hair:

Es dudoso que mi sobrina no _____ peinarse. (querer)

4. It's evident that they like each other:

Es evidente que ellos se _____. (gustar)

5. It's important that the students read their syllabi:

Es importante que los estudiantes _____ sus temarios. (leer)

6. It's improbable that they have an argument:

Es improbable que ellas _____ una discusión. (tener)

7. It's incredible that Antonio doesn't live with his family:

Es increíble que Antonio no _____ con su familia. (vivir)

8. It's bad that it rains: Es malo que _____. (llover)

9. It's necessary that we all meet as soon as possible:

Es necesario que nos _____ tan pronto como sea posible. (reunirse)

10. It's possible that we will buy a house soon:

Es posible que _____ una casa pronto. (comprar)

11. It's preferable that they talk in private:

Es preferible que _____ en privado. (hablar)

12. It's ridiculous that he doesn't kiss his wife in public.

Es ridículo que él no _____ a su esposa en público. (besar)

13. It's terrible that the children don't love their parents:

Es terrible que los niños no _____ a sus padres. (amar)

14. It could be that he likes eating too much:

Puede ser que le _____ comer demasiado. (gustar)

m. ACTIONS TO BE COMPLETED: For each infinitive, write the correct present tense subjunctive conjugation, except in the case of those that require the indicative mood.

1. I won't go unless you go.

Yo no iré a menos que tú _____. (ir)

2. She won't call before he arrives.

Ella no llamará antes de que él _____. (llegar)

3. We'll organise the party provided that you come.

Nosotras organizaremos la fiesta con tal de que tú _____. (venir)

4. We'll open the champagne when the guests arrive.

Nosotros abriremos el champán cuando los invitados _____. (llegar)

5. The boy will open the presents after he cuts the cake.

El niño abrirá los regalos después de que _____ el pastel. (cortar)

6. I'll buy food in case we go camping.

Compraré comida en caso de que nosotros _____ de cámping. (ir)

7. I'll pick up the phone as soon as I turn off the computer.

Contestaré el teléfono en cuanto yo _____ el ordenador. (apagar)

8. We'll wait until you come back.

Esperaremos hasta que tú _____. (regresar)

9. I'll mix the drinks while you prepare the appetisers.

Mezclaré las bebidas mientras que tú _____ los aperitivos. (preparar)

10. I'll put the cake in the refrigerator so that it cools down:

Pondré el pastel en el refrigerador para que se _____. (enfriarse)

11. After he arrives, we will have a party.

Después de que _____ haremos una fiesta. (llegar)

12. She'll put them to sleep without them crying.

Ella los dormirá sin que ellos _____. (llorar)

13. I'll tell them the news as soon as they get here.

Les contaré las noticias tan pronto como ellos _____. (llegar)

14. It's clear that she is in love.

Está claro que ella está _____ enamorada. (estar)

15. He'll find out when he opens the envelope.

Lo descubrirá cuando él _____ el sobre. (abrir)

16. They'll get him a new bike provided that he gets good grades.

Le comprarán una bicicleta nueva con tal de que él _____ buenas calificaciones. (obtener)