

# **THE SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD**

- You already know many tenses in the *indicative mood*.
- This mood is used to talk about facts or real events.

- **The subjunctive mood** is used in complex sentences to express **hypothetical situations** (things that may or may not be real or factual) or **situations toward which** the speaker is expressing feelings or attitude.

# SUBJUNCTIVE IN NOUN CLAUSES

- The **independent clause** (or main clause) stands alone and expresses a complete idea.
- **The dependent clause** (or subordinate clause) cannot stand alone and depends on the main clause to complete its message.

# 2 Clauses

Ella sugiere que yo ponga atención.

She suggests that pay attention.

**Independent clause**  
(stands on its own)

**Subject + Verb**

**Indicative mood**

**Connected by the word "que"**

**Dependent clause (can't stand on its own)**  
**Begins with the word "que."**

**Subjunctive mood**

# SUBJUNCTIVE IN NOUN CLAUSES

- The **subjunctive** mood can **only** be used in the **dependent clause**.
- However, **the subjunctive is not automatically used in all** dependent noun clauses.

# What you need

- Independent clause with a subject and a verb in the indicative (or an expression) that expresses wish, preference, recommendation, opinion (and others that we will learn later).

## AND

- Dependent clause with a DIFFERENT subject must have the verb in the subjunctive.

# Some verbs & impersonal expressions of wish, preference, recommendation or opinion are:

- Desear
- Esperar
- Querer (e → ie)
- Mandar
- Insistir en
- Necesitar
- Permitir
- Preferir (e → ie)
- Prohibir
- Recomendar (e → ie)
- Aconsejar
- Sugerir (e → ie)
- Exigir (g → j)
- Ojalá
- Es necesario
- Es importante
- Es imprescindible
- Es bueno
- Es malo
- Es mejor



# Ejemplos

- **Recomiendo** que **sigas** una dieta saludable.

Independent clause

Subject = yo

Verb expressing  
desire in the  
indicative mood

Dependent clause

Subject = tú

Verb in the  
subjunctive mood

(I recommend that you follow a balanced diet.)

■ No es bueno que esta comida tenga mucha grasa.

Independent clause  
Subject = (it)  
impersonal  
Impersonal  
expression indicating  
opinion in the  
indicative mood

Dependent clause  
Subject = la comida  
Verb in the  
subjunctive mood

(It is not good that the food has a lot of grease.)

- **Espero** que no **tengamos** tarea el fin de semana.

Independent clause

Subject = yo

Verb expressing wish  
in the indicative  
mood

Dependent clause

Subject = nosotros

Verb in the subjunctive  
mood

(I hope that we don't have homework on the weekend.)

# What happens if...?

- If the verb or expression in the independent (main) clause does not express wish, preference, recommendation, opinion, etc.

## THEN

- The verb in the dependent clause must also use the indicative mood.

- Yo **sé** que **tenemos** que hacer ejercicios.

Independent clause  
Verb that expresses  
certainty (fact) in the  
indicative mood

Dependent clause  
Verb in the indicative mood

(It is true that fuel is very expensive.)

- **Es obvio** que ella **sigue** una dieta saludable

Independent clause  
Impersonal  
expression of  
certainty in the  
indicative mood

Dependent clause  
Verb in the  
indicative mood

(It is obvious that she follows a healthy diet.)

# What happens if...?

- If the **subject** in the independent (main) clause **is the same** as in the dependent clause.

## THEN

- The **dependent clause must take the infinitive** of the verb.
- And the word **que** is no longer used in the sentence to connect the two clauses.

- Espero **sacar** buenas notas en los exámenes.

Independent clause

Subject = yo

Verb in the  
indicative

Dependent clause

Subject =(yo)

Verb in the **infinitive**

(I hope that I get good grades on the exams.)

(I hope to get good grades on the exams.)

■ Uds. **quieren** **ser** saludables.

Independent  
clause

Subject = Uds.

Verb in the  
indicative mood

Dependent clause

Subject = (Uds.)

Verb in the infinitive

(**You** want to be healthy)

(**You** want [**yourselves**] to be healthy.)