

Subjunctive Test Study Guide

In learning to use the subjunctive, it is quite helpful if one can first recognize such clauses. The following is a list of clauses commonly associated with the use of the subjunctive:

a menos que ... unless ...
antes (de) que ... before ...
con tal (de) que ... provided that ...
cuando ... when ...
conviene que ... it is advisable that ...
después (de) que ... after ...
dudar que ... to doubt that ...
en caso de que ... in case ...
en cuanto ... as soon as ...
es aconsejable que ... it's advisable that ...
es bueno que ... it's good that ...
es difícil que ... it's unlikely that ...
es dudoso que ... it is 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 pity 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 ...

esperar que ... to wish 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 probable that ...
es raro que ... it's rare that ...
es ridículo que ... it's ridiculous that ...
estar contento que to be happy that ...
es terrible que ... it's terrible that ...
hasta que ... until ...
insistir en que ... to insist that ...
mandar que ... to order that ...
más vale que ... it's better that ...
mientras que ... while ...
negar que ... to deny 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 es verdad que ... it's not true that ...
no imaginarse que ... to not imagine that ...
no parecer que ... to not seem that ...
no pensar que ... to not think that ...
no suponer que ... to not suppose that ...
ojalá que ... if only he would ...
para que ... in order that ...
pedir que ... to ask that ...
preferir que ... to prefer that ...
prohibir que ... to prohibit that ...

puede ser que ... it may be that ...
querer que ... to want that ...
recomendar que ... to recommend that ...
rogar que ... to plead that ...
sentir que ... to regret that ...
sin que ... without ...
sugerir que ... to suggest that ...
tan pronto como ... as soon as ...
temer que ... to fear that ...
tener miedo de que ... to be afraid that ...

As you can see, the list is quite long, and this isn't even a complete list! There are even more expressions that trigger use of the subjunctive that we haven't included. Instead of trying to memorize such a long list, why not familiarize yourself with a much shorter list of expressions with which the subjunctive is **not** used?

creer que ... to believe that ...
no dudar que ... to not doubt that ...
es cierto que ... it is certain that ...
es claro que ... it is clear that ...
es evidente que ... it is certain that ...
es obvio que ... it is obvious that ...
estar seguro que ... to be sure that ...
es verdad que ... it is true that ...
no cabe duda que ... there's no doubt that ...
no es dudoso que ... it is not doubtful that ...
no hay duda que ... there is no doubt that ...

Since these expressions introduce a quality of **certainty**, they do **not** trigger the use of the subjunctive.

If you encounter a sentence with a main clause followed by a second clause, and the main clause introduces a quality of **certainty** or **objectivity**, the sentence will use the **indicative mood** in the second clause, since the sentence will be reporting something certain.

If you encounter a sentence with a main clause followed by a second clause, and the main clause does **not** introduce a quality of **certainty** or **objectivity**, the sentence will usually use the **subjunctive mood** in the second clause, since the sentence will **not** be reporting something certain.

Let's add another flashcard to remind us of the fundamental difference between the indicative and subjunctive moods:

<p><i>Indicative Mood</i> <i>certainty and objectivity</i></p> <p><i>Subjunctive Mood</i> <i>uncertainty and subjectivity</i></p>

Here are the six verbs that are irregular in the present subjunctive:

<p>dar - to give</p>

<p><i>dé des dé demos deis den</i></p>
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<p>estar - to be</p>

<p><i>esté estés esté estemos estéis estén</i></p>
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<p>haber - to have (auxiliary verb)</p>
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<p><i>haya hayas haya hayamos hayáis hayan</i></p>
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<p>ir - to go</p>

<p><i>vaya vayas vaya vayamos vayáis vayan</i></p>
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<p>saber - to know</p>

<p><i>sepa sepas sepa sepamos sepáis sepan</i></p>
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<p>ser - to be</p>

<p><i>sea seas sea seamos seáis sean</i></p>
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