

Subjunctive

The real
world of the
indicative...

*...is linked by
the relative
pronoun*

que...

*...to the cloudy and
unsure world of
SUBJUNCTIVE, where
wishes, wants, hopes,
dreams, possibilities,
ideas, doubts,
suggestions, commands,
etc. all “exist”*





Conozco una tienda que vende suéteres de lana muy lindos.

Busco una tienda que venda suéteres de lana.



Vivo en una casa que está al lado de un lago.

Quiero una casa que esté al lado del mar.



Vivo en un país que tiene una estación fría.

Quiero vivir en un país que tenga un clima tropical.



Conocí a una señorita de Argentina.

No conozco a nadie que sea de Argentina.

Subjunctive with Wishes, wants, hopes, dreams, etc.

PERSON A wants that PERSON B *do something...*

Him wanting that outcome is very real...

“Yo quiero...”

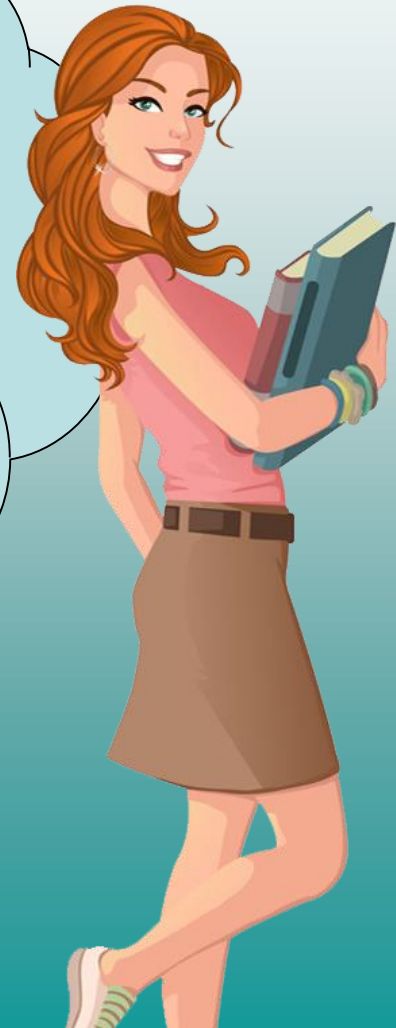
que

...ella me hable.



...but **her actually doing** what he is thinking is just a *possibility*.

Subjunctive is the part that is in the “hypothetical dream world” of what *could be* ... so, we switch the endings to show that it isn't quite real ... yet.



Subjunctive with Emotion

PERSON A has an emotion that *something is the way it is...*

(Which is subjunctive, because *it could be otherwise*, after all... and subjunctive is all about **possibilities!**)

He really feels that way...

“Estoy feliz...”

que

...nosotros
tengamos la misma
clase.

...but **reality could have been** very different!

... what he is thinking about is his emotional response to the *possibility*.

Subjunctive covers hypothetical situations, and what *could be* ... so, we switch the endings to show we are discussing alternate possibilities.



Subjunctive with Impersonal Observations

A general **observation** is made that *something is the way it is...*

This isn't **directed at anyone**. He's just making an **observation**...

“Es bueno ...”

que

...nosotros **camínemos**
juntos a la clase.



...but his statement **doesn't make an observation into a fact**, and the **thing he describes might not always be that way.**

Someone else's reality could contradict his opinion – she might think he is a WEIRDO, and think “Es malo que...” and stop walking with him.

Subjunctive with Recommendations

PERSON A recommends or suggests that *someone* should do something...

He can give all the **recommendations, suggestions, and ideas** he wants...

“Recomiendo ...”

que

...tú me visites en Nueva York.



...but **that doesn't mean** she will do it.

A suggestion is just a **softer version of a command**, after all – and who likes to be told what to do?



Subjunctive with Doubt, denial, and disbelief...

PERSON A expresses doubt that *something might* happen...

He really feels that way...

“Yo dudo ...”

que

...ella me llame ...

...and regardless of what may *actually* be going on, just thinking about it makes it **the realm of possibility**, and therefore subjunctive.

Doubt and denial are ways of worrying about or refusing to accept a possible reality.



Subjunctive with “Ojalá” ...

PERSON A hopes that *a specific outcome* might happen...

She is using the expression which means “**God willing,**” or “**I hope to God**” ...

“¡Ojalá ...”

que ...él me **escriba**!



...and no matter how much she wants it to be, and no matter how many times she asks, it is **just a possibility until it occurs.**



More than one possible way to remember SUBJUNCTIVE

Wishes, wants, desires...

Emotions...

Impersonal expressions...

Recommendations...

Doubt, denial, disbelief...

Ojalá...



Wishes, wants, desires...

Emotions...

Doubt,

Disbelief...

Impersonal expressions...

Negation

God willing....



More than one possible way to remember SUBJUNCTIVE

- **Wishes**, supplication, necessity, prohibition, preference, insistence
- **Hopes**, obligations, suggestions
- **Emotions**, regrets, advise & consent
- **Negation**, doubt & denial

- **Tal vez**, **acaso**, **quizás**
- **Ojalá**

- **Unknown**, or nonexistence antecedent
- **Some conjunction and adverbial clauses**
- **Expressions** (impersonal, etc.)

- **Imperatives** (except **tú** affirmative)
- **To influence another's behavior**





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¿Cómo se dice...?

1. *I want that you pay me. (pagar)*
2. *It's necessary that you listen. (escuchar)*
3. *It's good that you learn. (aprender)*
4. *I recommend that we talk. (hablar)*
5. *I'm happy that we have money. (tener)*
6. *I doubt (dudar) that she understands. (entender)*
7. *I hope (esperar) that we win the game. (ganar)*
8. *Maybe he doesn't know. (saber)*
9. *Whenever he arrives, we can go. (llegar)*