

El subjuntivo

INDICATIVE MOOD

- States facts
- Expresses certainty
- Expresses reality

VS.

SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD

Expresses:

- uncertainty
- doubt
- wishes/desires
- conjecture
- supposition
- conditions that are unreal or contrary to fact

*The subjunctive occurs much more frequently in Spanish than in English.

- In Spanish, the subjunctive normally occurs in dependent clauses introduced by a conjunction or a relative pronoun.

Forming the Present Subjunctive

The present subjunctive of most verbs is formed by dropping the ending **-o** of the 1st person singular (**yo** form) of the present indicative and adding the following endings:

	-ar	-er	-ir
Yo	e	a	a
Tú	es	as	as
Él/Ella/Ud.	e	a	a
Nosotros	emos	amos	amos
Vosotros	éis	áis	áis
Ellos/Ellas/Uds.	en	an	an

Examples:

	tomar	comer	escribir
Yo	tome	coma	escriba
Tú	tomes	comas	escribas
Él/Ella/Ud.	tome	coma	escriba
Nosotros	tomemos	comamos	escribamos
Vosotros	toméis	comáis	escribáis
Ellos/Ellas/Uds.	tomen	coman	escriban

*It is important to remember the process for forming the present subjunctive:

- a.) Start with the present indicative **yo** form
- b.) Drop the “o”
- c.) Add the appropriate present subjunctive ending.

Infinitive → Present Indicative “Yo” Form → Present Subjunctive

tomar	→	tomo	→	tome, tomes, tome, tomemos, toméis, tomen
comer	→	como	→	coma, comas, coma, comamos, comáis, coman
escribir	→	vivo	→	escriba, escribas, escriba escribamos, escribáis, escriban

*Following this process is extremely important because of what happens with verbs that have irregular “yo” forms in the present indicative:

Infinitive → Present Indicative “Yo” Form → Present Subjunctive

salir	→	salgo	→	salga, salgas, salga, salgamos, salgáis, salgan
cerrar	→	cierro	→	cierre, cierres, cierre, cerremos, cerréis, cierren
conocer	→	conozco	→	conozca, conozcas, conozca conozcamos, conozcáis, conozcan

Spelling Changes in the Subjunctive

In the present subjunctive of verbs ending in **-car**, **-gar**, and **-zar**:

- **c** changes to **qu**
- **g** changes to **gu**
- **z** to **c**

These spelling changes are the same ones that occur in the **yo** form of the preterite. For example:

Infinitive	Preterite YO form	Present subjunctive
buscar	busqué	busque
pagar	pagué	pague
avanzar	avancé	avance

Stem-Changes in the Present Subjunctive

• Stem-changing **-ar** and **-er** verbs have the same stem changes in the present subjunctive as in the present indicative (**e** to **ie**, and **o** to **ue**):

cerrar: cierre, cierres, cierre, cerremos, cerréis, cierren

volver: vuelva, vuelvas, vuelva, volvamos, volváis, vuelvan

• Stem-changing **-ir** verbs have the same stem changes in the present subjunctive as in the present indicative (**e** to **ie**, **o** to **ue**, and **e** to **i**). In the **nosotros** and **vosotros** forms, the stem vowel **e** changes to **i** and the stem vowel **o** changes to **u**.

sentir: sienta, sientas, sienta, sintamos, sintáis, sintan

dormir: duerma, duermas, duerma, durmamos, durmáis, duerman

pedir: pida, pidas, pida, pidamos, pidáis, pidáis, pidan

• Some verbs ending in **-iar** or **-uar** have an accent mark on the **i** or the **u** (**í**, **ú**) in all forms except those for **nosotros** and **vosotros**.

enviar: envié, enviés, envié, enviemos, enviéis, envien

continuar: continúe, continúes, continúe, continuemos, continuéis, continúen

Irregular present subjunctives on next page →

Present Subjunctive of Irregular Verbs

The following verbs have irregular forms in the present subjunctive:

dar: dé, des, dé, demos, deis, den

estar: esté, estés, esté, estemos, estéis, estén

haber: haya, hayas, haya, hayamos, hayáis, hayan

ir: vaya, vayas, vaya, vayamos, vayáis, vayan

saber: sepa, sepas, sepa, sepamos, sepáis, sepan

ser: sea, seas, sea, seamos, seáis, sean

*The Perfect Subjunctive

The perfect subjunctive is formed simply by using the present subjunctive of **haber** + a **past participle**.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| •haya entrado | •hayamos hablado |
| •hayas comido | •hayáis dicho |
| •haya escrito | •hayan leído |

I hope they have heard the news.

➔ Espero que hayan oído las noticias.

The teacher wants you to have read the book before going to class.

➔ El maestro quiere que hayas leído el libro.

Use the space below to jot down anything else you discover about forming the present subjunctive tense.
