

## Subjunctive

The subjunctive is not a tense; rather, it is a mood. The **subjunctive** mood is used to express everything except certainty and objectivity: things like doubt, uncertainty, subjectivity, etc.

**Yo dudo que usted vaya al Perú en diciembre.**

I doubt that you are going to Peru in December.

Since the above statement does not express certainty, the subjunctive (**vaya**) is required in the second clause.

For most verbs, the present subjunctive is formed by following these three steps:

1. Start with the **yo** form of the present indicative.
2. Then drop the **-o** ending.
3. Finally, add the following endings:

**-ar verbs:**

-e, -es, -e, -emos, -éis, -en

**-er and -ir verbs:**

-a, -as, -a, -amos, -áis, -an

<b>hablo</b> - o = habl	<b>como</b> - o = com	<b>vivo</b> - o = viv
habl + e = <b>hable</b>	com + a = <b>coma</b>	viv + a = <b>viva</b>
habl + es = <b>hables</b>	com + as = <b>comas</b>	viv + as = <b>vivas</b>
habl + e = <b>hable</b>	com + a = <b>coma</b>	viv + a = <b>viva</b>
habl + emos = <b>hablemos</b>	com + amos = <b>comamos</b>	viv + amos = <b>vivamos</b>
habl + éis = <b>habléis</b>	com + áis = <b>comáis</b>	viv + áis = <b>viváis</b>
habl + en = <b>hablen</b>	com + an = <b>coman</b>	viv + an = <b>vivan</b>

The formula also works for verbs that have irregular "yo" forms in the present indicative. Study these examples:

<b>conocer</b> (yo conozco) <b>conozco</b> - o = conozc	<b>tener</b> (yo tengo) <b>tengo</b> - o = teng	<b>salir</b> (yo salgo) <b>salgo</b> - o = salg
conozc + a = <b>conozca</b>	teng + a = <b>tenga</b>	salg + a = <b>salga</b>
conozc + as = <b>conozcas</b>	teng + as = <b>tengas</b>	salg + as = <b>salgas</b>
conozc + a = <b>conozca</b>	teng + a = <b>tenga</b>	salg + a = <b>salga</b>
conozc + amos = <b>conozcamos</b>	teng + amos = <b>tengamos</b>	salg + amos = <b>salgamos</b>
conozc + áis = <b>conozcáis</b>	teng + áis = <b>tengáis</b>	salg + áis = <b>salgáis</b>
conozc + an = <b>conozcan</b>	teng + an = <b>tengan</b>	salg + an = <b>salgan</b>

**\*\*Present Subjunctive irregulars:** Ser – Sea, Saber – Sepa, Dar – Dé, Ir – Vaya, Estar – Esté

For **-AR** and **-ER** stem-changing verbs, the formula applies except that there is no stem change in the nosotros and vosotros forms. Study these examples:

<b>pensar</b> (yo pienso) <b>pienso</b> - o = piens	<b>perder</b> (yo pierdo) <b>pierdo</b> - o = pierd
piens + e = <b>piense</b> piens + es = <b>pienses</b> piens + e = <b>piense</b> <b>pens</b> + emos = <b>pensemos</b> <b>pens</b> + éis = <b>penséis</b> piens + en = <b>piensen</b>	pierd + a = <b>pierda</b> pierd + as = <b>pierdas</b> pierd + a = <b>pierda</b> <b>perd</b> + amos = <b>perdamos</b> <b>perd</b> + áis = <b>perdáis</b> pierd + an = <b>pierdan</b>

For **-IR stem-changing verbs**, the formula applies except that the stem change in the nosotros and vosotros forms follows these patterns: o:ue verbs change o to u; e:ie verbs change e to i; e:i verbs change e to i. Study these examples:

<b>dormir</b> (yo duermo) <b>duermo</b> - o = duerm	<b>sentir</b> (yo siento) <b>siento</b> - o = sient
duerm + a = <b>duerma</b> duerm + as = <b>duermas</b> duerm + a = <b>duerma</b> <b>durm</b> + amos = <b>durmamos</b> <b>durm</b> + áis = <b>durmáis</b> duerm + an = <b>duerman</b>	sient + a = <b>sienta</b> sient + as = <b>sientas</b> sient + a = <b>sienta</b> <b>sint</b> + amos = <b>sintamos</b> <b>sint</b> + áis = <b>sintáis</b> sient + an = <b>sientan</b>

### Imperfect subjunctive

To form the imperfect subjunctive, used when the verb in the subjunctive trigger is in the past tense, you:

1. Start with the ellos preterite form
2. Remove the "-on"
3. Add: -a, -as, -a, -amos, -áis, -an

comer (ellos comieron) <b>comieron</b> - on = comie	<b>hablar</b> (ellos hablaron) <b>hablaron</b> - on = hablar
comier + a = <b>comiera</b> comier + as = <b>comieras</b> comier + a = <b>comiera</b> comier + amos = <b>comiéramos</b> comier + ais = <b>comierais</b> comier + an = <b>comieran</b>	hablar + a = <b>hablara</b> hablar + as = <b>hablaras</b> hablar + a = <b>hablara</b> hablar + amos = <b>habláramos</b> hablar + ais = <b>hablarais</b> hablar + an = <b>hablaran</b>

**Note:** In the nosotros form, you must add an accent on the last vowel before the r

**USE WHEN....The subjunctive trigger is in the preterite or imperfect:**

**Ex:** Era importante que tú **comieras** una dieta equilibrada cuando eras niño.

## Subjunctive Triggers

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:

<u>“Ser” + + “que”</u>	<u>Trying to make someone do something:</u>	<u>Expressing Doubt</u>
<b>Es dudoso que ...</b> It is doubtful that ...	<b>Insistir en que ...</b> To insist that ...	<b>Dudar que ...</b> To doubt that ...
<b>Es bueno que ...</b> It's good that ...	<b>Mandar que ...</b> To order that ...	<b>No es cierto que ...</b> It's not certain that ...
<b>Es difícil que ...</b> It's unlikely that ...	<b>Pedir que ...</b> To ask that ...	<b>No estar convencido de que...</b> To not be convinced that ...
<b>Es fácil que ...</b> It's likely that ...	<b>Preferir que ...</b> To prefer that ...	<b>No estar seguro de que ...</b> To not be sure that ...
<b>Es fantástico que ...</b> It's fantastic that ...	<b>Prohibir que ...</b> To prohibit that ...	<b>*No creer que...</b> To not believe that
<b>Es importante que ...</b> It's important that ...	<b>Querer que ...</b> To want that ...	<b>*No pensar que...</b> To not think that
<b>Es imposible que ...</b> It's impossible that ...	<b>Recomendar que ...</b> To recommend that ...	<i>*Note in the positive form these do not require subjunctive!!</i>
<b>Es improbable que ...</b> It's unlikely that ...	<b>Aconsejar que ...</b> To advise that ...	<b><u>Indefinite Expressions</u></b>
<b>Es increíble que ...</b> It's incredible that ...	<b>Sugerir que ...</b> To suggest that ...	<b>Dondequiera...</b> Wherever
<b>Es (una) lástima que ...</b> It's a pity that ...	<b>Esperar que ...</b> To wish that ...	<b>Quienquiera...</b> Whoever
<b>Es malo que ...</b> It's bad that ...	<b>Convenir que ...</b> it is advisable that ...	<b>Cuandoquiera</b> Whenever
<b>Es necesario que ...</b> It's necessary that ...		<b>Buscar...que...</b> To look/search for ..that...
<b>Es posible que ...</b> It's possible that ...		
<b>Es preferible que ...</b> It's preferable that ...		
<b><i>This list could go on forever!</i></b>		

Notable exceptions to this list are:

- **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 ...*
- **Es verdad que ...** *it is true that ...*
- **Es seguro que...** *It is sure that...*
- **No es dudoso que...** *It is not doubtful that...*
- **No dudar que...** *To not doubt that...*

\*\*\*These are not subjunctive triggers = Use Indicative!!

<b>Miscellaneous Subjunctive Triggers*</b>		<b>Extreme Emotion</b>
<b>a menos que ...</b> unless ...	<b>en caso de que ...</b> in case ...	<b>Estar contento que...</b> To be happy that...
<b>a fin de que...</b> so that, in order to	<b>en cuanto ...</b> as soon as ...	<b>Estar triste que...</b> To be sad that...
<b>antes (de) que ...</b> before ...	<b>hasta que ...</b> until ...	<b>Alegrarse que...</b> To become happy that..
<b>así que...</b> so...	<b>más vale que ...</b> it's better that ...	<b>Estar nervioso que...</b> To be nervous that...
<b>con tal (de) que ...</b> provided that ...	<b>mientras que ...</b> while ...	<b>Sentir que ...</b> to regret that ...
<b>cuando ...</b> when ...	<b>ojalá que ...</b> if only he would ...	<b>Tener miedo de que ...</b> to be afraid that ...
<b>después (de) que ...</b> after ...	<b>para que ...</b> in order that ...	<b>Temer que ...</b> to fear that
<b>tan pronto como ...</b> as soon as ...	<b>sin que ...</b> without ...	There are many more to this list! If it is extreme emotion, followed by <b>QUE = SUBJUNCTIVE</b>

*\*USED WHEN ACTION HAS NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED!*