

# Subjunctive

## FORM

Use the simple form of the verb. The simple form is the infinitive without the "to." The simple form of the verb "to go" is "go." The Subjunctive is only noticeable in certain forms and tenses.

## USE

The Subjunctive is used to emphasize urgency or importance. It is used after certain expressions (see below).

### Examples:

- I suggest that he **study**.
- Is it essential that we **be** there?
- Don recommended that you **join** the committee.

## NOTICE

The Subjunctive is only noticeable in certain forms and tenses. In the examples below, the Subjunctive is not noticeable in the you-form of the verb, but it is noticeable in the he-form of the verb.

### Examples:

- You **try** to study often. *you-form of "try"*
- It is important that you **try** to study often. *Subjunctive form of "try" looks the same.*
- He **tries** to study often. *he-form of "try"*
- It is important that he **try** to study often. *Subjunctive form of "try" is noticeable here.*

## Verbs Followed by the Subjunctive

The Subjunctive is used after the following verbs:

- to advise (that)
- to ask (that)
- to command (that)
- to demand (that)
- to desire (that)
- to insist (that)
- to propose (that)
- to recommend (that)
- to request (that)
- to suggest (that)
- to urge (that)

### Examples:

- Dr. Smith **asked that** Mark **submit** his research paper before the end of the month.
- Donna **requested** Frank **come** to the party.
- The teacher **insists that** her students **be** on time.

## Expressions Followed by the Subjunctive

The Subjunctive is used after the following expressions:

It is best (that)

It is crucial (that)

It is desirable (that)

It is essential (that)

It is imperative (that)

It is important (that)

It is recommended (that)

It is urgent (that)

It is vital (that)

It is a good idea (that)

It is a bad idea (that)

### Examples:

- **It is crucial that** you **be** there before Tom arrives.
- **It is important** she **attend** the meeting.
- **It is recommended that** he **take** a gallon of water with him if he wants to hike to the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

## Negative, Continuous and Passive Forms of Subjunctive

The Subjunctive can be used in negative, continuous and passive forms.

### Negative Examples:

- The boss insisted that Sam **not be** at the meeting.
- The company asked that employees **not accept** personal phone calls during business hours.
- I suggest that you **not take** the job without renegotiating the salary.

### Passive Examples:

- Jake recommended that Susan **be hired** immediately.
- Christine demanded that I **be allowed** to take part in the negotiations.
- We suggested that you **be admitted** to the organization.

### Continuous Examples:

- It is important that you **be standing** there when he gets off the plane.
- It is crucial that a car **be waiting** for the boss when the meeting is over.
- I propose that we all **be waiting** in Tim's apartment when he gets home.

## Should as Subjunctive

After many of the above expressions, the word "should" is sometimes used to express the idea of subjunctiveness. This form is used more frequently in British English and is most common after the verbs "suggest," "recommend" and "insist."

### Examples:

- The doctor recommended that she **should see** a specialist about the problem.
- Professor William suggested that Wilma **should study** harder for the final exam.

# Subjunctive Exercise

1. It's important that she (remember) ..... to take her medicine twice a day.
2. I suggest that Frank (read) ..... the directions carefully before assembling the bicycle. He doesn't want the wheels to fall off while he is riding down a hill
3. Mrs. Finkelstein demanded that the heater (repair) ..... immediately. Her apartment was freezing.
4. It's vital that the United States (focus) ..... on improving its public education system. What we do now will affect our country for generations to come.
5. The monk insisted that the tourists (enter) ..... the temple until they had removed their shoes.
6. I am not going to sit here and let her insult me. I demand that she immediately (apologize) ..... for what she just said.
7. Judy asked that we (attend) ..... her graduation ceremony next week.
8. Was it really necessary that (sit) I ..... there watching you the entire time you were rehearsing for the play? It was really boring watching you repeat the scenes over and over again.
9. It is important to remember that Janine (think) ..... very differently from you. She may not agree to the changes you have made in the organization of the company.
10. It's a little difficult to find the restaurant. I propose that we all (drive) ..... together so that nobody gets lost along the way.

11. The woman insisted that the lost child (take) ..... to store's information desk so his parents could be paged.

12. The nutritionist recommended that Sally (reduce) ..... her daily fat intake.

13. The environmental leader felt it was extremely important that the people of the city (allow) ..... to voice their concerns over the new hotel being built on the bay.

14. She told me that the government (regulate) ..... the airline industry. I don't know if that is true.

15. The sign at the pool recommended that you (swim) ..... after eating a large meal.

16. It is necessary that a life guard (monitor) ..... the swimming pool while the children are taking their swimming lessons.

17. The sun is scorching today. I suggest you (put) ..... on sunblock immediately before you get a sun burn.

18. John insists that Sarah (invite) ..... to the wedding; otherwise he will not attend.

19. I think it's an interesting fact that she (come) ..... from Estonia.

20. It is imperative that the world (work) ..... towards a solution to global warming before the weather patterns of the world are disrupted irreparably.