

Lesson 3: The Subjunctive Mood In the Present

It is time to learn a very important but also a very difficult aspect of the Spanish language called the Subjunctive. The Subjunctive is not a tense rather it is a mood. Just to recap: We have 3 Moods in Spanish: Indicative, Imperative and Subjunctive. The Subjunctive has 4 tenses of its own: Present Subjunctive, Perfect Subjunctive, Imperfect Subjunctive and Pluperfect Subjunctive.

Conjugation of the Subjunctive in the Present Tense

Yo **Ame** **Coma** **Viva**

Tú/Vos **Ames** **Comas** **Vivas**

Ud./Él/Ella **Ame** **Coma** **Viva**

Nosotros-as **Amemos** **Comamos** **Vivamos**

Uds./Ellos-as **Amen** **Coman** **Vivan**

If the ending of the verb is Ar, we take the Yo form in the Present Indicative and change O to E.

If the ending of the verb is Er or Ir, we take the Yo form in Present Indicative and change O to A.

For example:

Tener: Yo Tengo

Present Subjunctive: **Yo tenga, Tú/Vos tengas, Ud./Él/Ella tenga. Nosotros-as tengamos, Uds./Ellos-as tengan.**

VERY IRREGULAR VERBS IN SUBJUNCTIVE: (Because is not possible to conjugate them with the above formula):

IR: Vaya, vayas, vaya, vayamos, vayan

SER: Sea, seas, sea, seamos, sean

ESTAR: Esté, estés, esté, estemos, estén

SABER: Sepa, sepas, sepa, sepamos, sepan

DAR: Dé, des, dé, demos, den

HABER: Haya, hayas, haya, hayamos, hayan

So now that we know the conjugation of the Present Subjunctive, how do we use it?

Wishes & Desires

Quiero que...

Espero que...

Ojalá (que) ...(Ojalá is an expression from Arabia and always needs the Subjunctive. It can be used with que or without que, there is not a difference)

Me gustaría que...

Necesito que...

When we use these expressions, we need to use the Subjunctive mood. We always need to use the Subjunctive mood when we are speaking about a wish or desire that relates to one subject but the action is from another subject. Example: "I hope that you have a good weekend". "I" am doing the wishing, but "you" are doing the action of "having a good time."

When the subject is the same, we only need to use the Infinitive.

Let's see some examples of both cases:

Infinitive: "Quiero estudiar el próximo año". (I want to study next year.)

Subjunctive: "Quiero que *estudies* el próximo año, así podrás cambiar de trabajo". (I want that you study next year, so you can change your job.)

¿Cuáles son sus deseos para el año que viene? (What are your wishes for the coming year?)

Yo quiero hacer un viaje muy largo. (I want to do a long trip.)

Espero que todas las personas del mundo *tengan* comida. (I hope that all people in the world have food.)

Ojalá que *haya* paz. (I hope for peace.)

It is also necessary to use the Subjunctive with orders and favors:

Pedidos

Te pido que...(I ask you)

Te ruego que...(I pray for you)

Te ordeno que...(I order you)

Te suplico que...(I beg you)

“Te pido que **firmes** todos los papeles y luego me los **entregues**.” (I ask you to sign all the papers and then give me them.)

“Mi madre me pide siempre que la **ayude** con computación.” (My mother always asks me to help her with her computer.)

“Te ruego que **llegues** más temprano la próxima vez.” (I pray you come earlier next time.)