

Mood of Verbs

The **mood** of a verb is the manner in which the action or condition is conceived or intended.

In English there are three verb moods.

1. **Indicative**, a verb stating an apparent fact, makes a statement or asking a question. This is the way verbs are normally used in English.

2. **Imperative**, a verb stating a direct command or direct request.

3. **Subjunctive**, a verb expressing a doubt, desire, supposition, suggestion, or condition contrary to fact;



An indirect command, an indirect suggestion, an indirect statement of necessity, a wish that is contrary to fact.

The Subjunctive Mood

A verb is in the **subjunctive mood** when it expresses a condition which is doubtful or not factual. It is most often found in a [clause](#) beginning with the word **if**. It is also found in [clauses](#) following a verb that expresses a doubt, a wish, regret, request, demand, or proposal.

These are verbs typically followed by clauses that take the subjunctive:

ask, demand, determine, insist, move, order, pray, prefer, recommend, regret, request, require, suggest, and wish.

In English there is no difference between the subjunctive and normal, or indicative, form of the verb **except** for the present tense third person singular **and** for the verb to be.

The subjunctive for the present tense third person singular drops the **-s** or **-es** so that it looks and sounds like the present tense for everything else.

The subjunctive mood of the verb **to be** is **be** in the present tense and **were** in the past tense, regardless of what the subject is.

Incorrect: If I was you, I would run.

Correct: If I were you, I would run.

(The verb follows **if** and expresses a non-factual condition.)

Incorrect: I wish he was able to type faster.

Correct: I wish he were able to type faster.

(The second verb is in a clause following a verb expressing a wish. It also suggests a non-factual or doubtful condition.)

Incorrect: His requirement is that everyone is computer literate.

Correct: His requirement is that everyone be computer literate.

(Subordinate clause follows main clause with a demand.)

Incorrect: He recommended that each driver reports his tips.

Correct: He recommended that each driver report his tips.

Sometimes we may use the **conditional** auxiliary verbs of **could, should, or would** to express the same sense.

Subjunctive: I wish he were kinder to me.

Conditional: I wish he would be kinder to me.

Note: In modern English, the subjunctive is found only in [subordinate clauses](#).

Imperative Sentence

An **imperative sentence** asks, requests, or commands someone to do something. An imperative sentence drops the subject.

Sometimes when simply the verb of an imperative sentence is referred to, it is said to be in the **imperative mood**.

Examples: Go away!

Please go away.

John, come here please.

(*John* is not the subject but a [direct address](#).)