

Subjunctive Notes

Subjunctive

Subjunctive is not a tense, it is a mood. A tense is when an action takes place (i.e. past, present, future), while mood only reflects how the speaker feels about the action. The subjunctive mood is rarely used in English, but is widely used in Spanish.

Comparison examples of indicative and subjunctive:

John goes to the store. (states what happens - indicative)

I hope John goes to the store. (states that there is a desire and uncertainty in John's going to the store – subjunctive)

In English, subjunctive will usually be seen in sentences that contain a main clause which introduces a quality of uncertainty or subjectivity.

Ex: I hope she will come. (I hope = main clause)
I feel she will come. (I feel = main 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. Add the following endings:

-ar	
-e	-emos
-es	
-e	-en

-er and –ir	
-a	-amos
-as	
-a	-an

This makes it easy for irregular verbs, as this formula also works for them.

For verbs with irregular 1st person conjugation, the irregularity is kept and is added into the conjugation.

Ex: Tener → Tengo

Subjunctive:

Yo Teng + a = Tenga

Tú Teng + as = Tengas

Él /ella Teng + a = Tenga

Nosotros Teng + amos = Tengamos

Ellos/ellas Teng + an = Tengan

For stem-changing verbs, it also works, except in the nosotros form. In the –ar and –er verbs, the nosotros form **does not** have the stem-change.

Ex: Pensar (e-ie) → Pienso

Subjunctive:

Piense	Pensemos
Pienses	
Piense	Piensen

In the –ir verbs, the nosotros forms follow these patterns:

o:ue – the o changes to u

e:ie – the e changes to i

e:i – the e changes to i

Ex: Dormir (o-ue) → Duermo

Subjunctive:

Duerma	Durmamos
Duermas	
Duerma	Duerman

1st person irregular verbs:

Decir – Digo

Hacer - Hago

Oír – Oigo

Poner – Pongo

Tener – Tengo

Traer – Traigo

Venir – Vengo

Highly irregular verbs: Subjunctive

Estar	
Esté	Estemos
Estés	
Esté	Estén

Haber	
Haya	Hayamos
Hayas	
Haya	Hayan

Ver	
Vea	Veamos
Veas	
Vea	Veán

Ser	
Sea	Seamos
Seas	
Sea	Sean

Ir	
Vaya	Vayamos
Vayas	
Vaya	Vayan

Saber	
Sepa	Sepamos
Sepas	
Sepa	Sepan

Dar	
Dé	Demos
Des	
Dé	Den

Volition sentence creation. P 315

Volition verbs express wishes, preferences, suggestions, requests and implied commands.

- When the subject of the verb is trying to influence the subject of the dependent clause, the subjunctive is used in the clause.

Ex:

Subject verb + clause subject subjunctive verb.

- She wants me to go with her.
- Ella quiere que yo vaya con ella.

When a subjunctive expression uses two verbs the second is left in the infinitive.

Ex:

- Él desea ir a el cine.
- He wants to go to the movies.

Indirect object pronouns are needed to create some dependent clauses. They refer back to the subject of the subjunctive verb. The verb in the dependent clause is conjugated in the present indicative tense.

Ex:

- le digo que estudie más.
- I tell him to study more.

Nosotros Commands p 335

There are two ways of creating commands that include yourself.

1. Vamos a + infinitive
2. Nosotros/as form of present subjunctive.

Vamos a ... would be the equivalent of saying "let's go to"

Ex:

- vamos a la fiesta.
- Let's go to the party.

- vamos a llamar tu amigo.
- let's go call your friend.

With the present tense subjunctive of nosotros, the subject is implied through the verb, and this makes the sentence more of a command.

Ex:

- Hablemos con el professor.
- Let's talk with the teacher.

Adding the subject (nosotros) makes it more of a statement than a command and doesn't even make sense in translation.

- Nosotros hablemos con el profesor.
- we let's talk with the teacher.

(Doesn't work well in Spanish either)

If you want to add subject to make the command more forceful, use the vamos a... sentence structure.

Ex:

- Tú y yo vamos a hablar con el profesor.
(You and I are going to talk to the professor).