# SP33: The Subjunctive Mood (El subjuntivo)

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For media links in this activity, visit [the LLC Spanish Tutoring website](https://www.mtsac.edu/llc/passportrewards/spanishdlas/index.html). Find your DLA number to see all the resources to finish your DLA.

## Learning Outcomes: You will be able to…

* Identify what the subjunctive is.
* Name the triggers for the subjunctive.
* Conjugate the subjunctive.

## Section 1: Meaning and Form

Within the Spanish Language, we have two different ***moods***, the *indicative* and the *subjunctive*. However, what is a mood? A **mood** can be described as the way we look at reality. You may have heard the phrase “looking at the world through rose colored glasses”, and that means that the person wearing these glasses sees the world from a very optimistic point of view.

A ***mood*** is the way the speaker sees any given situation and because Spanish is such a polite language, it gives us a way to tell the listener that this may be ***my*** reality, but the speaker does not expect it to be the same for the listener.

For example, in English, if I want you to do something for me, I say it in such a way that makes it seem like it isn’t an option. Ex: “I want you to buy me a cup of coffee.”

In Spanish, I can say the exact same thing but I would use the *subjunctive* ***mood***.

Ex: “Quiero que me ***compres*** un café.”

The feeling of this mood is that you buying a cup of coffee is *my* wish, but I realize it may not be *your* wish.

### Conjugation

In order to conjugate verbs in the subjunctive, we have a pattern we follow. In order to find the stem of a verb in the subjunctive, it will first be conjugated in the first person singular (1S, “yo” form) of the present indicative. Then, we will remove the – o. Finally, we will add the opposite vowel endings to the stem.

Graphic representation of the process just explained, using tener as an example:

"In order to conjugate verbs in the subjunctive, we have a pattern we follow. In order to find the stem of a verb in the subjunctive, it will first be conjugated in the first person singular (1S, “yo” form) of the present indicative (tengo). Then, we will remove the – o (teng). Finally, we will add the opposite vowel endings to the stem (tenga, yo tenga)."

“Opposite vowel endings” simply means that for –ar verbs, you will use the endings we would normally use for –er verbs and for –er and –ir verbs, we will use the endings we would normally use for –ar verbs.

Subjunctive **endings**

**-AR** Verbs

1S 🡪 -e

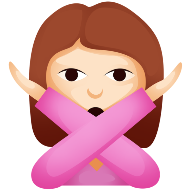
2S 🡪 -es

3S 🡪 -e

1P 🡪 -emos

2P 🡪 -éis

3P 🡪 -en



**-ER/-IR** Verbs

1S 🡪 -a

2S 🡪 -as

3S 🡪 -a

1P 🡪 -amos

2P 🡪 -áis

3P 🡪 -an

**Practice conjugating the verbs in the chart below. The first one has been done as an example.**

**Infinitive Verb Person/Number Stem (1S of present IND - o) Conjugation**

**TRABAJAR 3P Trabajo 🡪 Trabaj Trabajen**

**DECIR 2S \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**RECOMENDAR 3S \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**ESCRIBIR 1P \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**APRENDER 1S \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**CAMINAR 3P \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**COGER 2S \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

## Section 2: Use

### When do we use the *subjunctive?*

Have you ever seen the movie “Alice In Wonderland”? If you haven’t, it’s about a young girl that follows a rabbit down a rabbit hole and she ends up falling underground. When she lands, she is in a world where everything is the opposite of the world she knows above ground. Rabbits can talk and throw tea parties, cats are magical and a deck of cards is an army for the Queen of Hearts! The subjunctive is a little like that, when certain phrases or expressions are used, they trigger a trap door, sending you into a reality that is the opposite of what you know. We’ll explore those triggers now.



When we use verbs of will or influence, we’ll be triggered to the subjunctive, but why? If I’m expressing my will over someone else, it doesn’t necessarily mean that they will do what I want them to do. It’s a reality for me, but it isn’t for them.

For example:

Quiero [que me compres un café.]

Quiero (present indicative) 🡪 que me compres (present subjunctive) un café.

To help understand the triggers of the subjunctive, remember that the subjunctive is a WEIRDO.

A graphic representation of the WEIRDO Acronym/Mnemonic.

W is for Will. Common verbs of will that trigger subjunctive are querer, desear, necesitar, and preferir.

E is for Emotions. Common verbs of emotion that trigger subjunctive are esperar, gustar, molestar, and temer.

I is for Impersonal. Common impersonal verbs/expressions that trigger subjunctive are es importante, es bueno, and es malo.

R is for Recommnedations. Common verbs of recommednation that trigger subjunctive are recomendar, sugerir, prohibir, and aconsejar.

D is for Doubt/Denial. Common verbs of doubt/denial that trigger subjunctive are dudar, negar, and no pensar.

O is for Ojalá. Ojalá will always trigger the subjunctive.


Using the triggers from the chart above, you can practice conjugating verbs in each sentence. Review the sentences with your tutor.

1. Hay una nota que dice que Alice necesita beber lo que hay en una botella, no creo que \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**ser**) una buena idea.
2. Es ridículo que \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**haber**) muchas cosas que Alice come y bebe sin pensar.
3. Alice niega que el conejo \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**poder**) hablar español.
4. Es malo que la reina de corazones \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**castigar**) a la gente de Wonderland.
5. Al Sombrero Loco le gusta que Alice y el conejo \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**asistir**) a la fiesta del té.



## Section 3: Above or Below Ground?

Using what you now know about the subjunctive, you can practice selecting the correct verb in the sentences below. Check the box in front of the correct verb.

Is there will, emotion, doubt? If so, Alice is in Wonderland; if not, she’s above ground where rabbits don’t talk!



1. Alice no cree que los animales 🞏 **pueden/** 🞏 **puedan** hablar.
2. Es una lástima que las flores 🞏 **piensan/** 🞏 **piensen** que Alice es una hierba.
3. El gato de Cheshire dice que ella 🞏 **necesita/** 🞏 **necesite** ir a la derecha en lugar de la izquierda.
4. Alice 🞏 **puede/** 🞏 **pueda** hablar con los animales, eso es raro, ¿verdad?
5. Le sorprende a Alice que todos los animales 🞏 **hablan/** 🞏 **hablen** inicialmente.
6. Me molesta que la reina de corazones 🞏 **es/** 🞏 **sea** una mala mujer.
7. El Sombrero Loco 🞏 **tiene/** 🞏 **tenga** una fiesta donde Alice y otros beben mucho té.
8. El conejo blanco 🞏 **corre/** 🞏 **corra** rápidamente porque tiene prisa para una cita muy importante.

## Section 4: ¿Qué hiciste ayer?

Follow the model below to create your own sentences. You will need to decide whether or not the sentence requires a subjunctive or will be in the indicative. Add any articles or pronouns necessary.

*Mis padres / querer / que / yo / no ir / la playa / con amigos.*

***Mis padres quieren que yo no vaya a la playa con mis amigos.***

* + 1. Los profesores / sugerir / que / estudiantes / estudiar / cada día.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* + 1. Tú / (yo) recomendar / que / no tener miedo de / perros.  
       \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    2. Mis amigos / dudar / que / yo / completar / proyecto.  
       \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    3. Los padres / Manuel / prohibir / que / él / no esperar / el último momento / terminar / tarea.  
       \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    4. Yo / querer / viajar / España / próximo año.  
       \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    5. Ellos / pensar / que / ir / fiesta / de amigo.  
       \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    6. Ojalá / que / los profesores / no tener / clase / mañana.  
       \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## **Section 5: ¡Que suenen los tambores!**

**Identify the subjunctive verbs used in the poem. Make a list in the space below the poem.**

“Que suenen los tambores” by Victor Manuelle

Que suenen suenen suenen!  
Que suenen suenen suenen!  
Eh!

Que suenen los tambores!  
Ay no te desesperes y ten paciencia  
Que todo en la vida viene  
No se trata de velocidad, si no resistencia  
Para lograr lo que se quiere

Por eso dale mueve, mueve las caderas  
Vamos a gozar la vida y lo que la suerte llega  
Por eso dale mueve, sacude los temores  
No te quejes tanto y no me lloré  
Y para que vengan tiempos mejores

Que suenen suenen suenen los tambores oye  
Que cuando suenen se curen el alma y los corazones  
Que suenen suenen suenen los tambores oye  
Pa' que traigan alegría y se lleven los dolores

Se lleven los dolores  
Se lleven los dolores  
Se lleven los dolores  
Dale rompe los tambores

Ay no te desesperes que no hay urgencia  
Que llegue cuando llegue  
Que la vida no es de rapidez, si no inteligencia  
Y yo sé que tú puedes

## **Section 6: Practice with a Tutor**

**GOOD job! Now** [**make an appointment for Spanish Tutoring on the LLC website**](https://www.mtsac.edu/llc/passportrewards/spanishdlas/index.html)**.**

**Before your appointment, please** [**fill out the sign-in sheet.**](https://www.mtsac.edu/llc/passportrewards/spanishdlas/sign-in.html)

**When it is time for your appointment, meet your tutor in the** [**Virtual LLC**](https://mtsac-edu.zoom.us/j/97503332158)**.**

### Grading Rubric

| **Possible Points** | **happy face**  **Pass** | **overwhelmed faced**  **Not Yet Pass** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Completion** | The student completed all of the sections of the DLA. | The student has not yet completed all of the section of the DLA. |
| **Comprehension/**  **Metacognition** | The student can effectively explain the concepts and skills learned in the DLA. | The student cannot yet effectively explain the concepts and skills learned in the DLA. |
| **Course Connections** | The student can explain the connections between their coursework and the DLA. | The student cannot yet explain a connection between their course and DLA. |

**Students must succeed in all criteria to pass this DLA.**

**Verification of completion: If you successfully complete this DLA with the tutor, you will receive a stamp on your digital passport. An updated copy of your passport will be emailed to you 1-2 business days after your tutoring appointment.**