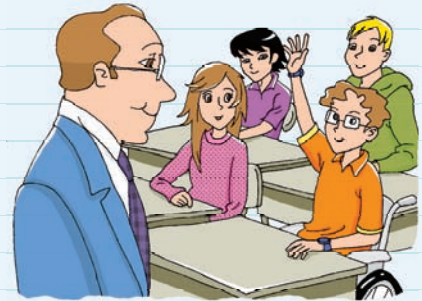


# UNIT 1

## Subjunctive Mood

### Preview



### Part A

### Present Subjunctive

**Principal:** I am **recommending** that Mrs. Robinson **stay** home until after her baby is born.

**Jenny:** When is her baby due?

**Principal:** Around September 15<sup>th</sup>. I **requested** that she **return** to school in January.

**Mark:** Who is going to teach us until then?

**Principal:** Ms. Shaw. I **insist** you **be** as respectful to her as you are to Mrs. Robinson!

## Grammar Explanation

The **subjunctive mood** is used to talk about actions or states that are in doubt or not factual.

The **present subjunctive\*** is formed with the base form of a verb. It occurs only in noun clauses beginning with **that**. These clauses follow verbs, nouns, or adjectives that express suggestions, demands, or requests.\*\*

Words of suggestion: *propose, recommend, recommendation, suggest, suggestion, advise, advisable, critical, desirable, important, vital, urge*

The doctor **suggested** I **sleep** more.  
It is **important** that he **sleep** more.  
The doctor's **suggestion** is that they **sleep** more.  
It is **advisable** that she **sleep** more.

Words of demand: *demand, imperative, insist, necessary, order, require, required*

My parents have **demand**ed that I **be** quiet at night.  
Your parents **require** that you **be** quiet at night.  
It will be **imperative** that she **be** quiet at night.

Words of request: *ask, beg, prefer, request, wish*

I **ask** that you **have** more patience with the other students.  
The teacher **requested** that Nick **have** his project finished earlier.

To make a subjunctive clause negative, add **not** before the subjunctive verb.

I **recommend** that you **not exercise** until you feel better.

\* The term "present" refers to the form of the subjunctive verb (base form) rather than the time in which the action happens. The verb in the main clause may be in any tense.

\*\* In subjunctive sentences, the word **that** is sometimes omitted after certain verbs (*propose, suggest, insist*). It is not usually omitted in other contexts.

## Practice 1

### Exercise 1 Match the sentence parts.

- |                                     |   |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. My tutor prefers that            | • | • a. we be quiet during the test.        |
| 2. It's advisable that you          | • | • b. keep the bandage on for a few days. |
| 3. Tom suggested we go fishing      | • | • c. she apply to Harvard.               |
| 4. Her math teacher advised that    | • | • d. travel plan before he goes away.    |
| 5. Mom insisted that Bob make a     | • | • e. we meet twice a week.               |
| 6. Our French teacher demanded that | • | • f. if the weather is nice tomorrow.    |

### Exercise 2 Circle the correct answers.

- Victor suggested that I (gets / got / get) more exercise.
- They demanded that we (do not be / are not being / not be) so loud.
- I recommend that you (look / looking / to look) for a job that isn't so stressful.
- Nina asked that we (not disturb / did not disturb / are not disturb) her.
- The weather reporter said it was advisable that we (taking / take / to take) an umbrella today.
- The owner of the restaurant requested that he (smokes / smoke / to smoke) outside.
- The police officer insisted that I (not show / didn't show / to not show) him my license, but I did!
- It is critical that you (not eat / do not eat / did not eat) anything the night before your surgery.

## Practice 2

### Exercise 1 Underline the mistakes in the sentences. Write the corrections using the present subjunctive.

1. Her doctor ordered her remain in bed. that she
2. The commander ordered that the thief is arrested. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The police asked them avoid driving during the storm. \_\_\_\_\_
4. It is necessary we'll pack enough food for the hiking trip. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The waiter's recommendation was she order the pancakes. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The bank manager demanded that he pays the debt on time. \_\_\_\_\_

### Exercise 2 Unscramble the sentences.

1. suggested / I / they / scenic / route. / the / take  
→ I suggested they take the scenic route.
2. students / the / be / recommend / I / that / polite.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. a / new / start / He / proposed / that / she / hobby.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. citizens / taxes. / The / insists / that all / pay / government  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. imperative / students / It / to do / properly. / that / research / learn / is  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. demanded / The father / a traditional / have / wedding. / daughter / his / that  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

## Grammar in Use

## Exercise 1 Fill in the blanks with the words from the box.

go

let

do

choose

Steve: Hey Jo, what's up? Are you planning our surfing holiday?

Jo: No, my parents are insisting that I not <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

Steve: Why? Is it because it's too dangerous?

Jo: Yeah, they asked that we <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a safer activity.  
My sister suggested that we <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
something in the city.

Steve: How about we go sightseeing in  
Beijing instead?

Jo: That's an idea. I'll propose that  
they <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ me do that.  
I'll call you if they agree.



## Exercise 2 Answer the questions about the above reading using the present subjunctive.

1. Did Jo's parents agree to their planned surfing trip?

→ \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did Jo's parents request?

→ \_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Jo's sister suggest?

→ \_\_\_\_\_

4. What will Jo do next?

→ \_\_\_\_\_

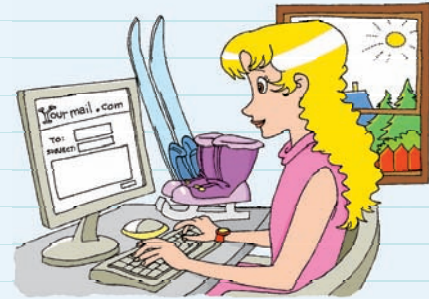
## Part B

### Past Subjunctive

#### Preview

Dear friends,

I'm having a great time here in Canada. So far, I have gone skiing, ice skating, and fishing. If it's sunny tomorrow, we might even go camping! There's so much to do. If I **were** back home, I wouldn't be doing all these fun things. I wish you **were** all here with me. If only you **weren't** so busy, you could join me. Well, hope to see you soon.



Your friend,  
Claire

## Grammar Explanation

The **past subjunctive\*** is formed with the past form of a verb that describes a state, condition, or habit. It is used to talk about hypothetical or imaginary situations. With the verb *be*, the form *were* (not *was*) is usually used for all subjects.

Use	Examples
After the verb <i>wish</i> to express an unfulfilled desire	I <b>wish</b> Sally <b>were</b> here to help us. He <b>wishes</b> he <b>could</b> run faster.
After <i>if (only)</i> in second conditional sentences (followed by a clause with <i>would</i> , <i>could</i> , or <i>might</i> )	If people <b>drove</b> smaller cars, we <b>would</b> all breathe cleaner air. If I <b>were</b> taller, I <b>could</b> reach the top shelf. You <b>might</b> like her if you <b>knew</b> her better.
After the verbs <i>suppose</i> and <i>imagine</i> , expressing unreal conditions (usually followed by a sentence with <i>would</i> or <i>could</i> )	<b>Suppose</b> you <b>met</b> the president. What <b>would</b> you say? <b>Imagine</b> you <b>were</b> rich. What <b>could</b> you do?
After <i>as though</i> or <i>as if</i> to make a comparison to an imaginary condition	She acts <b>as though</b> she <b>were</b> very rich, but she's not. He drives <b>as if</b> he <b>were</b> in a Formula 1 race.

\* The term "past" refers to the form of the subjunctive verb (past simple) rather than the time in which the action happens. All of the examples above are about the present.

## Practice 1

### Exercise 1 Match the sentence parts.

- |                             |   |  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Imagine we could         | • | • a. were nicer today.                 |
| 2. I wish the weather       | • | • b. if their parents approved.        |
| 3. I could go to the party  | • | • c. I would forgive him.              |
| 4. If he said he was sorry, | • | • d. though she were a native speaker. |
| 5. She speaks Japanese as   | • | • e. if I were not sick.               |
| 6. They would get married   | • | • f. travel to Mars.                   |

### Exercise 2 Unscramble the sentences.

1. knew / wish / my sister's / I / secret. / I

→ I wish I knew my sister's secret.

2. happier / she / be / rich? / if / Would / she / were

→ \_\_\_\_\_

3. little boy / as if / talks / a man. / The / were / he

→ \_\_\_\_\_

4. you / Imagine / the oldest / children. / of six / were

→ \_\_\_\_\_

5. speak / could / he / English / fluently. / He / wishes

→ \_\_\_\_\_

6. she / raise / the answer, / she knew / her hand. / would / If

→ \_\_\_\_\_

## Practice 2

### Exercise 1 Rewrite the sentences in the second conditional (using *if* and the past subjunctive).

1. It can't fly because it doesn't have wings.

→ *If it had wings, it could fly.*

2. She can't get a job because she is so lazy.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

3. He doesn't keep his promises, so I don't trust him.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

4. I am able to see well because I'm wearing my glasses.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

5. I can't write to Jane because I don't know her address.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

6. She can't buy a new car because she doesn't have enough money.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

### Exercise 2 Look at the pictures. Complete the sentences.



1. Julie runs as if \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Lisa cries as though \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Tony plays soccer as if \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Kevin speaks as though \_\_\_\_\_.

## Grammar in Use

## Exercise 1 Fill in the blanks with the words from the box.

imagine had would as if wish were

I <sup>1</sup> wish you were here. We're having an exciting time in Hong Kong. The food is great, and the buildings are so tall. The weather is so hot, though! <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ that the weather back home were hot and humid every night. That's what it's like here! Yesterday, we were in a taxi. The driver was driving <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ we were in a race. Suddenly, we crashed into another taxi. The two drivers were yelling at each other, and it looked as though they <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ going to fight. Eventually, we got back to our hotel OK. The trip has been perfect so far, except I wish our room <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ air conditioning. If it did, it <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ be a lot more comfortable.

Your friend,  
Andy



## Exercise 2 Answer the questions with your own information.

1. If you could visit any city, where would you go?

→ \_\_\_\_\_

2. What would you do if you visited Hong Kong?

→ \_\_\_\_\_

3. If your taxi were hit by another taxi, how would you feel?

→ \_\_\_\_\_

4. Suppose you were in a taxi and the driver were driving too fast. What would you do?

→ \_\_\_\_\_



**Exercise 1** Circle the correct answers.

1. Jerry requested that Kim (helps / help) him with his essay.
2. I suggest that he (finishes / finish) his homework by midnight.
3. My mother insists that my father (exercise / exercises) regularly.
4. Is it really necessary that Gail and I (to attend / attend) this meeting?
5. It is important that you (be given / will given) your medication by a qualified nurse.
6. He recommended that I (took care / take care) to study longer than twenty minutes for the next test.

**Exercise 2** Rewrite the sentences in the past subjunctive. Use the given words.

1. She sings as well as a pop star. *as if*  
→ She sings as if she were a pop star.
2. I'm short, so I can't dunk a basketball. *taller*  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. If it's sunny tomorrow, I'll go to the beach. *now*  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Pretend that you're homeless. What will you do? *suppose*  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Three players on our team are injured, so we'll probably lose. *healthy ... win*  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Charlotte wants to work at a bookstore so that she can get a discount on books. *wish*  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 3** Use the words to write complete sentences. Add prepositions and articles if necessary. Change the forms of the verbs if necessary.

1. I – wish – my dog – be – friendlier.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

2. She – insist – we – try – cake – last night.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

3. If – he – have – longer – hair, – he – will – look – like – girl.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

4. It – be – important – she – ask – her doctor – before – starting – diet.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

## Further Learning

### Past Perfect Subjunctive (Third Conditional)

The past perfect subjunctive is also called the third conditional. Like second conditional sentences, third conditional sentences talk about unreal situations. However, they are about the past. They are formed like this:

*If* clause → *Result* clause  
*If* + subject + past perfect verb, subject + *would/could/might have* + past participle.

- If they **had eaten** lunch, they **wouldn't have been** hungry.  
(In fact, they didn't eat lunch, so they were hungry.)
- If she **hadn't forgotten** her book, she **would have studied** yesterday.  
(She forgot her book, so she didn't study yesterday.)
- You **might have enjoyed** the party if you **had come**.  
(You didn't come, so you didn't enjoy the party.)

**Quick Check** Circle the correct answers.

1. If she (hadn't / hasn't) met Tim, she wouldn't have gotten married.
2. We could (have won / won) the big game if we had practiced more.
3. I might have failed if you (hadn't helped / wouldn't have helped) me.
4. If I had known you were waiting for me, I (would have / had) walked faster.