

THE SUBJUNCTIVE

The subjunctive mood expresses wishes, suggestions, demands, or desires in a sentence with usually two clauses, with a verb such as **suggest, demand** in one clause and a second verb in the subjunctive mood.

The subjunctive is similar in form to the bare infinitive. It is mostly used :

- after the verbs:
advise , urge, demand, insist, recommend, request, suggest, propose etc

eg I suggest that he **study**.

We suggested she **consider** taking them up on their offer.

Donna requested Frank **come** to the party.

Robert insisted that I **work** on my paper.

The principal demands that we **study** hard.

She proposed that we **get** married.

Her hairstylist recommended that she stop dying her hair.

- after the adjectives:
crucial, essential, vital, advisable, important, imperative, necessary

eg It is essential (that) she **notify** him immediately.

It is important that she **attend** the meeting.

It is crucial that he **call** me as soon as he gets home.

The subjunctive can be used in negative, continuous and passive forms.

Negative subjunctive form

We add **not** before the verb:

eg I suggest that she **not go** out tonight.

With passive examples:

John recommended that Susan **be hired** immediately.

Jane demanded that I **be allowed** to take part in the negotiations.

With continuous forms examples:

eg It is important that you **be standing** there when he gets off the plane

NOTE 1:

- We do not add an **-s** to the verb when we use the subject **he, she** or **it**.
- **In past, present and future situations the verb does not change in the subjunctive.**

eg He suggests that she **study** hard.

He suggested that she **study** hard.

He is going to suggest that she **study** hard.

NOTE 2:

English has three moods.

- The **indicative** mood is for stating facts and opinions.
eg That cat is fabulous.
- The **imperative** mood is for giving orders.
eg Look at that fabulous cat.
- The **subjunctive** mood is for expressing wishes, proposals, suggestions.
eg Her father demanded that she **turn off** the TV.