

What is Subjunctive Mood?

Worksheet

The subjunctive mood expresses non-factual or uncertain situations: wishes ('I wish he were here'), hypotheticals ('If I were president...'), or demands ('She insisted that he be on time'). It uses base verb forms without -s or special marking.

Questions

1. Which sentence uses the subjunctive?

- A) I am happy.
- B) If I were happy, I would dance.
- C) She is happy.
- D) They were happy at the party.

2. Complete with subjunctive: 'I suggest that he ____ the proposal.'

- A) accepts
- B) accept
- C) is accepting
- D) has accepted

3. What does 'If I were you' indicate?

- A) I am you.
- B) Hypothetical advice (I'm not you, but imagining it).
- C) I wish you were me.
- D) You are me.

4. Which verb phrase requires subjunctive?

- A) I hope that...
- B) She insists that...
- C) It seems that...
- D) We think that...

5. Use subjunctive to express a wish: 'I want to be in Paris now.'

6. Create a hypothetical with subjunctive: 'If he is smart, he will pass.'

7. Express a demand using subjunctive: 'The boss says she must attend the meeting.'

8. Define: What is subjunctive mood?

9. Define: Subjunctive vs indicative?

10. Define: Two forms of subjunctive in English?

Answer Key

1. B) If I were happy, I would dance. — 'If I were happy' uses subjunctive 'were' to express a hypothetical, not a real situation.
2. B) accept — After 'suggest that,' use the base form: 'accept,' not 'accepts.'
3. B) Hypothetical advice (I'm not you, but imagining it). — 'If I were you' uses subjunctive 'were' to create an imagined scenario for giving advice.
4. B) She insists that... — 'Insists' expresses a demand, triggering subjunctive: 'She insists that he arrive on time.'
5. Statement: 'I want to be in Paris now.' (factual desire) Subjunctive form: 'I wish I were in Paris.' (uses base form 'were' instead of 'was') Note: Archaic 'were' in first person signals the subjunctive mood.
6. Indicative version: 'If he is smart, he will pass.' (likely scenario) Subjunctive version: 'If he were smart, he would pass.' (contrary to fact—he's probably not smart) The shift from 'is' to 'were' signals this is imagined, not real.
7. With indicative: 'The boss says she must attend.' (She will probably attend.) With subjunctive: 'The boss demands that she attend the meeting.' (base 'attend,' no 's') The base form 'attend' (not 'attends') marks this as a demand/requirement, not a fact.
8. A verb form expressing wishes, hypotheticals, demands, or non-factual situations—not reality.
9. Indicative = facts ('I am here'). Subjunctive = wishes/hypotheticals ('I wish I were here').
10. Base form ('If he leave...') or 'were' for past ('If I were...'). Modern English uses fewer subjunctive forms than older English.

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