

What is the Subjunctive Mood?

Worksheet

The subjunctive mood expresses wishes, requirements and hypothetical statements using special verb forms like 'were' and 'be'. Example: 'I wish he were here' (not 'was').

Questions

1. Which sentence uses subjunctive mood correctly?
A) I wish he was here.
B) I wish he were here.
C) I wish he is here.
D) I wish he be here.
2. Complete: 'The boss insists that you ___ on time.'
A) arrive
B) arrives
C) arrived
D) will arrive
3. What mood is: 'If I were you, I'd quit.'?
A) Indicative
B) Imperative
C) Subjunctive
D) Conditional
4. Which is formally correct?
A) It's crucial that he finishes early.
B) It's crucial that he finish early.
C) It's crucial that he will finish early.
D) It's crucial that he finished early.
5. Complete with correct subjunctive form: 'I wish she ___ (be) here.'
6. Correct the sentence: 'The manager demands that he completes the report on time.'
7. Complete: 'It is essential that she ___ (attend) the meeting.'
8. Define: What is the subjunctive mood?
9. Define: After 'I wish that', what verb form?
10. Define: What comes after 'demand that'?

Answer Key

1. B) I wish he were here. — 'Were' is the past subjunctive of 'be', used in wishes and hypotheticals. 'Was' is indicative.
2. A) arrive — After 'insists that', use bare subjunctive: 'arrive' (no -s). Not 'arrives'.
3. C) Subjunctive — 'Were' in a hypothetical condition is subjunctive. The clause is called a subjunctive conditional.
4. B) It's crucial that he finish early. — After 'It's crucial that', the subjunctive form is the bare infinitive: 'finish'.
5. The main clause is 'I wish that'. After 'wish that', use subjunctive. Subjunctive of 'be' is 'were' (not 'was' in formal usage, though 'was' is increasingly common). Answer: 'I wish she were here.'
6. After 'demand that', use subjunctive form of the verb. Subjunctive form of 'complete' drops the -s: 'complete' (not 'completes'). Answer: 'The manager demands that he complete the report on time.'
7. After 'It is essential that', use the bare subjunctive form. Bare form of 'attend' is 'attend' (not 'attends'). Answer: 'It is essential that she attend the meeting.'
8. A verb form expressing wishes, demands, suggestions and hypothetical situations—not facts.
9. Subjunctive: 'I wish that he were here' (past subjunctive, even though it refers to now).
10. The bare subjunctive form, with no -s: 'demand that he go', not 'goes'.

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