

# What are Impersonal Constructions?

## Worksheet

Impersonal constructions use 'il' (formal it) + verb/expression to state necessity, possibility, or appearance. They trigger infinitive (il faut + inf.) or subjunctive (il est possible que + subj.), and can be transformed into personal forms (Il me faut = J'ai besoin).

## Questions

1. il faut takes which structure?

- A) Subjunctive only
- B) Infinitive + que + subj.
- C) Infinitive (il faut faire)
- D) No verb

2. il est possible que is followed by...?

- A) Indicative
- B) Infinitive
- C) Subjunctive
- D) Future

3. il semble que + \_\_\_\_? (he is coming)

- A) il vient
- B) il vienne
- C) either (depends on speaker's certainty)
- D) qu'il venait

4. Transform: Il faut que tu partes → \_\_\_\_.

- A) Tu dois partir
- B) J'ai besoin que tu partes
- C) Tu as besoin de partir
- D) Il te faut partir

5. Il faut étudier pour réussir l'examen.

6. Il est possible qu'il pleuve demain.

7. Il semble que tu as raison. / Il te semble que tu as raison.

8. Define: What does 'il faut' mean?

9. Define: il faut vs. il me faut?

10. Define: Does 'il semble que' require subjunctive?

## Answer Key

1. C) Infinitive (il faut faire) — il faut + infinitive: Il faut partir. (One must leave.)
2. C) Subjunctive — Expressions of possibility/doubt require subjunctive: il est possible qu'il vienne.
3. C) either (depends on speaker's certainty) — Certainty→indicative (il semble qu'il vient). Doubt→subjunctive (il semble qu'il vienne).
4. D) Il te faut partir — Personal form: Il te faut partir (It is necessary for you to leave = You must leave).
5. Impersonal: Il VerbExpression: faut (must/is necessary) Clause: étudier (infinitive) Meaning: One must study to pass the exam. Transform: J'ai besoin d'étudier. (I need to study.)
6. Impersonal: Il Expression: est possible que (is possible that) Subordinate: il pleuve (subjunctive) Meaning: It is possible (that) it may rain tomorrow. Alternate: Il se peut qu'il pleuve.
7. Impersonal (formal): Il semble que + (indicative or subjunctive, depending on certainty) Personal (direct): Il te semble que (It seems to you that) Meaning: It seems (to you) that you are right.
8. 'Il faut' = 'one must' or 'it is necessary.' Requires infinitive. il faut partir (one must leave).
9. 'il faut' is general/impersonal. 'il me faut' is personal (it is necessary for me). Both + infinitive.
10. Not always. With certainty: indicative (il semble qu'il vient). With doubt: subjunctive (il semble qu'il vienne).

### Bounlu

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