

SUBJUNCTIVE

Mood (mode) is the form of the verb that shows the manner of the action. There are three moods: **indicative, imperative, and subjunctive.**

Indicative states a fact or asks a question.

Examples: Our lease has expired.

When does our lease expire?

Imperative expresses a command or makes a request.

Examples: Call me next week.

Please send me your latest catalog.

Subjunctive is used in dependent clauses following main (independent) clauses expressing necessity, demand, or wishing. The following information will provide a more in depth explanation of the subjunctive.

Sentences that express *necessity, demand, strong request, urging, or resolution* in the main clause require a *subjunctive* verb in the dependent clause that follows.

- a. If the verb in the dependent clause requires the use of the verb *to be*, use the form *be* with all three persons (not *am, is, are*).

Necessity: It is necessary (or important or essential) that these questions be answered at once. (NOT: are answered.)

Demand: I insist that I be *allowed* to present a minority report at the next board meeting. (NOT: am allowed.)

Request: They have asked that you be *notified* at once if matters do not proceed according to plan. (NOT: are notified.)

Urging: We urged (or suggested, or recommended) that he *be given* a second chance to prove himself in the job. (NOT: is given.)

Resolution: The committee has resolved (or decided or ruled) that the decision *be deferred* until the next meeting. (not: is deferred.)

- b. If the verb in the dependent clause is a verb other than *be*, use the ordinary *present tense* form for all three persons, However, do not add *s* (or otherwise change the form) for the third person singular.

Necessity: It is essential that he *arrive* on time. (not: arrives.)

Demand: They insist that he *do* the work over. (not: does.)

Request: They have asked that she *remain* on the committee until the end of the year.
(not: remains.)

Urging: I suggested that she *type* the material triple-spaced to allow room for some very heavy editing. (not: types.)

Resolution: They have resolved that Fred *represent* them. (not: represents.)

c. Sentences that start with *I wish*, *she wishes*, and so on, require a subjunctive verb in the dependent clause that follows.

1. To express *present* time in the dependent clause, put the verb in the *past tense*.

I wish I *knew* how to proceed.

I wish I *could attend*.

Note: If the verb is *to be*, use *were* for all three persons.

I wish I *were going* to the reception. (not: was going.)

I wish he *were going* with me.

2. To express *past* time in the dependent clause, put the verb in the *past perfect tense*.

I wish that she *had invited* me.

I wish that I *had been* there.

I wish that I *could have attended*.

3. To express *future* time in the dependent clause, use the helping verb *would* instead of *will*.

I wish he *would arrive* on time.

I wish she *would make* more of an effort.