

When to Use the Subjunctive: WEIRDO

The following acronym is helpful when memorizing when to use the subjunctive.

W =

E =

I =

R =

D =

O =

I. **Wishes**—Using the subjunctive with expressions of hope and desire.

To express what you want, wish, or hope to happen, use the following expressions:

Desear que

Esperar que

Querer que

Ojalá (que)

Examples:

Complete the following sentences with a verb in the subjunctive:

Deseo que mi madre/padre _____

Quiero que mis amigos _____

Espero que tú _____

II. **Expressions of Emotion**

The following are examples of expressions of emotion (there are many of these):

Estar contento/a que

Alegrarse de que

Sentir (e:ie) que

Encantar que

Gustar que

Enojarse que

Es una lástima que

Es una pena que

Temer que

Sorprenderse de que

Tener miedo de

Use the subjunctive after an expression of emotion, regardless of whether or not the information is true.

Examples:

Complete the following sentences with a verb in the subjunctive.

Me alegro de que _____.

Es una lástima que _____.

Me encanta que _____.

III. Impersonal Expressions

The following are examples of impersonal expressions:

(No) es bueno que ...

(No) es malo que ...

(No) es importante que...

(No) es posible que ...

(No) es imposible que...

(No) es raro que ...

(No) es necesario que ...

(No) es probable que ...

Examples:

*Some impersonal expressions express certainty and are therefore used with the **indicative**.

Examples:

IV. Requests

The following are examples of expressions used to make requests:

- Aconsejar que**
- Dejar que**
- Exigir que**
- Insistir (en) que**
- Mandar que**
- Pedir (e:i) que**
- Prohibir que**
- Recomendar (e:ie) que**
- Sugerir (e:ie) que**

The subjunctive is often used to make requests instead of using commands. It has a “softer” and sometimes more polite effect.

Examples:

*Imagine that a doctor is making the following recommendations. Complete them with a verb in the subjunctive.

Doctor: “Recomiendo que tú _____ (dormir) mucho y que
_____ (quedarse) en cama por dos días.”

Doctor: “Sugiero que tú _____ (hacer) una consulta en una semana.”

Doctor: “Mando que tú no _____ (caminar) en el pie por tres semanas.”

V. **D**oubt and **D**enial

The following expressions are used to indicate doubt and denial.

Dudar que
Es dudoso que
Es imposible que
Es improbable que
No es cierto que
No es verdad que
No estar seguro/a de que
Negar (e:ie) que

Examples:

Complete the following sentences:

Dudo que mi amigo _____.

No es verdad que _____.

Es improbable que _____.

VI. **O**jalá :

*Cannot be conjugated.

*Is a word of Arabic origin that can roughly be translated as: _____

*Means the same thing as “_____” or “_____” but has a little stronger meaning than the verb *esperar*.

*Can be used with or without the word _____.

*The verb after Ojalá should be in the _____.

Examples: ¡Ojalá que _____!

¡Ojalá ella _____!