

The Present Subjunctive (An Introduction)

The **subjunctive** is used to express desires, doubts, wishes and possibilities. Whereas **indicative** (the regular present tense) is used to express concrete facts and certainty.

E.g. Marta **estudia** el español. (Indicative)
 Su madre quiere que Marta **estudie** el español. (Subjunctive)

How to form:

This is how to form the subjunctive with *most* regular verbs:

Step 1: Take the **yo** form of the present indicative.

Step 2: Remove the **-o** from the end of the verb.

Step 3: Add the endings (see the table below).

-AR Verbs	-IR and -ER Verbs	
Hablar – to speak	Vivir – to live	Comer – to eat
Indicative → Hablo	Indicative → Vivo	Indicative → Como
Habl <u>e</u>	Viv <u>a</u>	Com <u>a</u>
Habl <u>es</u>	Viv <u>as</u>	Com <u>as</u>
Habl <u>e</u>	Viv <u>a</u>	Com <u>a</u>
Habl <u>emos</u>	Viv <u>amos</u>	Com <u>amos</u>
Habl <u>éis</u>	Viv <u>áis</u>	Com <u>áis</u>
habl <u>en</u>	Viv <u>an</u>	com <u>an</u>

You need the following in order to use the subjunctive:

- Two subjects (people or things doing the action)
 E.g. **Mi padre** quiere que **mi hermano** limpie su dormitorio.
- Two verbs – in the majority of subjunctive sentences there are two verbs, one in the indicative (a trigger) and one in the subjunctive (the result).
- Que – this appears in a large number of phrases that use the subjunctive. N.B. You **do not** use the subjunctive every time you use que!

Uses of the subjunctive:

The subjunctive is used after a variety of phrases and in some different constructions, below are some examples (there are lots more than this).

Impersonal Phrases

Es importante que

Es extraño que

Wishes and desires

Esperar que

Querer que

Preferir que

Verbs of doubt and denial

No creo que

No pienso que

Dudar que

Verbs of emotion

Encantar que

Sentir que

N.B. These notes are just an introduction, there are lots more examples and differences!