

Subjunctive Form

What is the subjunctive form?

The subjunctive form is used to explore conditional or imaginary situations. It is often used after formal verbs such as *require*, *demand*, *suggest*, *propose*. It can be used to give advice.



Examples in action

If I **were** him, I'd try a lot harder at school.

The Queen demands **that** all children **be** taught to curtsy.

Mrs Smith requires **that** James Brown **go** to her office now.

The subjunctive verb form is also used after **formal expressions**, such as it is **desirable**, **necessary**, **vital**, **essential**.

Examples

It is desirable **that** the whole class **be** here early for the trip.

It is vital **that** each child **bring** their own water bottle to school.

Is it necessary **that** you **eat** all your chocolate right now?



Non-subjunctive form

Non-subjunctive

Subjunctive form

Subjunctive example

is

He is allowed.

be

It is essential he be allowed.

was

I was ordered.

were

If I were ordered, I'd go.

Present verbs in the third person (e.g ending in s)

He cooks.

Remove the s.

I wish that he cook.

