

Gramática nueva: Los modos

Congratulations! You have learned how to speak in the future, past, and present tenses in Spanish. This is a wonderful accomplishment! Take a moment to pat yourself on the back. Now that you’ve done that, get ready for your next adventure: the subjunctive mood. Say what? Now we’re getting moody...but in a good way.

All the tenses that you have learned so far are considered to be the **indicative** mood, ***which describes facts without doubt or subjectivity.*** The two statements below represent certainty. Take a look:



**Estoy seguro** de que Marcos quiere comer sus verduras.  
(**I am sure** Marcos wants to eat his vegetables.)



**No dudo** que el perro desea jugar.  
(**I don’t doubt** that the dog wants to play.)

So, how is the **subjunctive** mood different?

The subjunctive conveys **attitudes, feelings, wishes, emotions, or doubts that rely on the possibility that something *might* happen**. While this may seem like another verb tense, it is actually a mood. A tense has to do with a time frame such as past, future, present, but a ***mood*** expresses the speaker’s feelings toward the action.

For example:



**No estoy seguro** de que Marcos ***quiera*** comer sus verduras.   
(**I am not sure** that Marcos wants to eat his vegetables.)



**Dudo que** el perro desee jugar.  
(**I doubt** that the dog wants to play.)

In both sentences, the speaker expresses uncertainty as doubt or disbelief. Notice how that changes the conjugation of *querer*and *desear*. Also, notice that both sentences contain **two subjects** and two subject pronouns. This is common with the subjunctive mood. We will focus on technicalities later, but for now, let’s get a bit more comfortable with when to use the subjunctive.

This concept may seem confusing at first, since we don’t always make a distinction between mood and reality in English. But, hang in there. You’ll master this mood thing before you know it!

**Let’s practice!**

1. It’s obvious you are going to have fun.

Subjunctive or indicative

1. It’s certain that the artist used acrylic paint.

Indicative or subjunctive

1. I want my friend to drive slower.

Indicative or subjunctive

1. I hope that my brothers do the chores my mom asked them to do.

Indicative or subjunctive

1. I am sure that people give money to different associations that help children.

Subjunctive or indicative

1. I believe that Luis walks to the public library every day.

Indicative or subjunctive

1. Carlos and Javier wish that we would do the project.

Subjunctive or indicative

1. She doubts that I know the president.

Subjunctive or indicative

1. It’s obvious that the motorcycle is not safe.

Indicative or subjunctive

1. My parents hope that I study art.

Subjunctive or indicative

**Gramática nueva: Subjunctive Mood**

Ojalá que llueva café—Juan Luis Guerra

Have you ever wished you could win the lottery? If so, would you:



Buy an island in the Caribbean?



Go on an endless shopping spree?



Donate all your money to charity?

The answer is the **subjunctive mood** which describes situations that are ***wishful, uncertain, doubtful, or hypothetical***. The subjunctive also represents sadness, anger, and concern. That’s a wide range of emotions.

Again, it’s the subjunctive ***mood...not tense***. It’s all about our feelings, not solid facts.

Let’s take a look at the subjunctive mood. ¡Espero que te guste! ¡No te olvides de tomar apuntes en tu guía de apuntes!

***Impersonal expressions which trigger the subjunctive mood***

*In the video, we learned some impersonal expressions that are trigger words for the subjunctive tense. Impersonal expressions are similar to emotions in that they express someone’s point of view or opinion. They are subjective and do not have a specific person or thing as the subject. In English, we use the subject “it”, but omit the pronoun in Spanish.*

*Here are a few of the most common impersonal expressions which trigger the use of the subjunctive mood:*

*Subjunctive*

*wishes, doubt, desires, the unknown, emotions, the abstract*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *es necesario que...* | *it’s necessary that...* |
| *es importante que...* | *it’s important that...* |
| *no es cierto que...* | *it’s not certain that...* |
| *es probable que...* | *it’s probable that...* |
| *es posible que...* | *it’s possible that...* |
| *es bueno que...* | *it’s good that...* |
| *es mejor que...* | *it’s better that...* |
| *es malo que...* | *it’s bad that...* |
| *es una lástima que...* | *it’s a shame that...* |
| *es raro que...* | *it’s strange/odd/rare that...* |
| *ojalá que...* | *hopefully... (word with Arabic origin meaning “God willing”)* |

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***Es necesario que****Raúl le****a****este libro.   
(****It’s necessary that****Raul read this book.)*

***Impersonal expressions which trigger the indicative mood***

*The indicative mood is certain and objective. It’s used to describe****facts****,****actions****, and****events****, as well as state opinions or feelings that are believed to be certain and true.*

*Here are a few of the most common impersonal expressions which trigger the indicative mood:*

***Indicative***

*facts, actions, events, or opinions that are believed to be true*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *no hay duda que...* | *there’s no doubt that...* |
| *es cierto que...* | *it’s certain that...* |
| *es evidente que...* | *it’s evident that...* |
| *es verdad que...* | *it’s true that...* |
| *es obvio que...* | *it’s obvious that...* |

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***Es verdad que****tú tienes 16 años.  
(****It’s true that****you’re 16 years old.)*

***How to form the subjunctive mood:***

*The present subjunctive is formed in the same way as most command forms.*

1. *Start with the****yo****form of the present indicative.*
2. *Then drop the****-o****ending.*
3. *Finally, add the following endings.*
4. *After the****que****, use the present subjunctive.*

***-AR****verbs will switch to****-ER****endings*

*-e, -es, -e, -emos, -éis, -en*

*Regular -ar verbs like****hablar****(yo hablo).*

***hablo****+ o = habl  
habl + e =****hable*** *habl + es =****hables*** *habl + e =****hable*** *habl + emos =****hablemos*** *habl + en =****hablen***

***Espero que****te gust****e****la comida.  
(****I hope that****you like the food.)*

***-ER****verbs will switch to****-AR****endings*

*-a, -as, -a, -amos, -áis, -an*

*Regular -er verbs like****comer****(yo como).*

***como****+ o = com  
com + a =****coma*** *com + as =****comas*** *com + a =****coma*** *com + amos =****comamos*** *com + an =****coman***

***Es importante que****com****as****vegetales.   
(****It’s important that****you eat vegetables.)*

***-IR****verbs will switch to****-AR****endings*

*-a, -as, -a, -amos, -áis, -an*

*Regular -ir verbs like****vivir****(yo vivo).*

***vivo****+ o = viv  
viv + a =****viva*** *viv + as =****vivas*** *viv + a =****viva*** *viv + amos =****vivamos*** *viv + an =****vivan***

***Ojalá que****viv****as****en España algún día.  
(****Hopefully you’ll****live in Spain one day.)*

***Irregular present subjunctive verbs:***

*Here’s a sneak peek of the six truly irregular verbs in the subjunctive mood. These are their yo forms in case you need them.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***D*** | ***d****ar* | *yo dé* |
| ***I*** | ***i****r* | *yo vaya* |
| ***S*** | ***s****er* | *yo sea* |
| ***H*** | ***h****aber* | *yo haya* |
| ***E*** | ***e****star* | *yo esté* |
| ***S*** | ***s****aber* | *yo sepa* |

How about *tener*?

The *yo* form, *tengo*, ***really*** matters here.

Speaking of which, *¡tengo que usar el baño!*

You figure out the subjunctive conjugations for *yo* and *tú*, and we’ll compare notes soon.

| **Tener** |
| --- |
| yo tengo |

Did you get *yo tenga* and *tú tengas*?

If you had incorrectly relied on the stem, *ten-*, you’d have *tena* and *tenas*...**wrong**!

*Tenas* anyone? Just kidding!

| **Tener** |
| --- |
| yo teng**a** |
| tú teng**as** |

How about the stem-changer...*perder?*

you come up with the conjugation for *ellos,*and I’ll wait.

Did you get *ellos pierdan*? Great!

Ready for good news? Stem-changing verbs don’t *change* their stems for *nosotros* or *vosotros*in the subjunctive. So, the *nosotros* form of *perder*is...*¡perdamos!*

**Perder (e  ie):***ellos pierdan   
Nosotros perdamos*