A SIMPLE GUIDE TO MASTER THE SPANISH SUBJUNCTIVE TIPS, EXAMPLES & TENSES
The Spanish subjunctive mood conveys hypothetical situations and subjectivity. It doesn’t refer to real actions, but rather doubts, feelings, advice, suggestions, requests, etc.

There are 4 key subjunctive tenses to learn:
- Present, Imperfect, present perfect and past perfect

Ojalá **tengas** un buen viaje.
I hope you **have** a good trip.

No creo que David **vaya** a venir.
I don’t think David **is going** to come.
6 Uses of the Subjunctive

- Express hopes and wishes.
- Give advice or suggestions.
- Describe qualities of unknown people or things.
- Request or demand something.
- Express feelings and emotions about an event.
- Communicate doubts and possibilities.
USES OF THE **SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD** IN SPANISH

The subjunctive expresses:

- Hopes & Wishes.
- Advice or Suggestions.
- Doubts & Possibilities.
- Requests or Demands.
- Feelings & Emotions Caused by Something.
- Qualities of Unknown People or Things.
**USES SUMMARY: W.E.I.R.D.O IN SPANISH**

**WISHES**
Yo **quería** que ustedes me **ayudaran**.
I **wanted** you guys **to help** me.

**EMOTIONS**
Me da **tristeza** que ustedes no se **lleven bien**.
It makes me **sad** that you **don’t get along**.

**IMPERSOINAL EXPRESSIONS**
**Es posible** que no **pueda** ir.
**It’s possible** that I **can’t go**.

**REQUESTS & RECOMMENDATIONS**
Les recomendé que **vieran** esta película.
I **recommended** them **to watch** this movie.

**DOUBTS**
No creo que David **vaya** a venir.
I **don’t think** David **is going** to come.

**OJALÁ**
Ojalá tengas un buen viaje.
I **hope** you **have** a good trip.
**SENTENCE STRUCTURE FOR THE SUBJUNCTIVE**

[Indicative verb] + que + [verb in subjunctive]

*Nos alegra que* estés bien.
*We are happy that* you *are okay.*

*Quiero que* vayas.
*I want you to go.*

[Impersonal expression] + que + [verb in subjunctive]

*Es importante que* leas las instrucciones.
*It's important that* you *read the instructions.*
WHEN **NOT TO USE** THE SUBJUNCTIVE

**KEY POINTS**

- When referring to **real** actions or events that are **perceived as factual**.
- When the hopes, demands, advice, or doubts are directed toward the **same subject**.
  - In such cases, you must use an **infinitive verb**.

**Examples**:

- **María no es muy amable.**
  - Maria **is** not very nice.

- **Espero llegar temprano.**
  - *I hope* I arrive early.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tense</th>
<th>Spanish Example</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRESENT</strong></td>
<td>Que tengas buen día.</td>
<td>Have a good day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dudo que haya tenido un buen día.</td>
<td>I doubt that he had a good day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PAST OR IMPERFECT</strong></td>
<td>Quería que fueras conmigo.</td>
<td>I wanted you to go with me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ojalá hubieras ido conmigo.</td>
<td>I wish you had gone with me.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: The future subjunctive is no longer used in contemporary Spanish.*
HOW TO FORM THE PERFECT TENSES

Haber in subjunctive form + past participle is the formula to form the subjunctive perfect tenses. Use the different subjunctive forms of 'haber' depending on the tense you need.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HABER (PRESENT)</th>
<th>HABER (IMPERFECT)</th>
<th>PAST PARTICIPLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Present subjunctive conjugations.</td>
<td>Imperfect subjunctive conjugations.</td>
<td>Add verb in its past participle form.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Haya | Hubiera / Hubiese |
| Hayas | Hubieras / Hubieses |
| Haya | Hubiera / Hubiese |
| Hayamos | Hubiéramos / Hubiésemos |
| Hayáis | Hubieseis |
| Hayan | Hubieran / Hubiesen |

-AR = -ado
Cantar > Cantado

-ER & -IR = -ido
Tener > Tenido
Vivir > Vivido

Add verb in its past participle form.
The Spanish subjunctive conveys the speaker’s subjectivity. As a result, it’s used to express uncertainty, hopes, feelings about an action or behavior, requests, and suggestions, and describe the qualities of an unknown person or place. The actions expressed with the subjunctive are hypothetical because they have not occurred, and we do not know if they will happen.

Sentences with the subjunctive use two subjects and two verbs. Subjunctive statements express that someone wishes, suggests, or has a certain emotion or doubts about another person’s actions, behaviors, or states. We must use an infinitive verb when the hopes, needs, or recommendations are directed toward the same subject. The subjunctive mood in Spanish has four main tenses: present, past, present perfect, and past perfect.
LINK TO THIS GUIDE

A Simple Guide to Master the Spanish Subjunctive

RELATED GUIDES & RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT

Verb Mood in Spanish: Indicative, Subjunctive & Imperative

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