

Did You Get It? *Presentación de gramática*

Level 3 p. 282

¡AVANZA!

Goal: Learn to use the subjunctive to talk about things that may or may not be.

Subjunctive with unknowns

- Read the following sentences. The boldfaced verbs in Column A are in the subjunctive. The boldfaced verbs in Column B are in the indicative. Why?

Column A		Column B
Busco una computadora que sea portátil. (<i>I am looking for a computer that is portable.</i>)	→	Tengo una computadora que es portátil. (<i>I have a computer that is portable.</i>)
Necesito una agenda electrónica que tenga una memoria más grande. (<i>I need a personal organizer that has a bigger memory.</i>)	→	Tengo una agenda electrónica que tiene una memoria grande. (<i>I have a personal organizer that has a big memory.</i>)
Quiero una pantalla de computadora que mida 15 pulgadas de ancho. (<i>I want a computer screen that measures 15 inches wide.</i>)	→	Compré una pantalla de computadora que mide 15 pulgadas de ancho. (<i>I bought a computer screen that measures 15 inches wide.</i>)

EXPLANATION: The main verbs in the sentences in Column A—**buscar**, **necesitar**, and **querer**—introduce things that are not known for certain. They are followed by the *subjunctive*. The main verbs in Column B—**tener** and **comprar**—introduce things that are known. They are followed by the indicative.

- Compare the sentences in Columns A and B. Why are the boldfaced verbs in Column A in the subjunctive and those in Column B in the indicative?

Column A		Column B
¿Tienes un libro que sea interesante? (<i>Do you have a book that is interesting?</i>)	→	Sí, tengo un libro que es interesante. (<i>Yes, I have a book that is interesting.</i>)
¿Hay alguien aquí que hable español? (<i>Is there anyone here who speaks Spanish?</i>)	→	Hay una mujer aquí que habla español. (<i>There is a woman here who speaks Spanish.</i>)
No hay nadie aquí que hable español. (<i>There is no one here who speaks Spanish.</i>)	→	Aquí hay alguien que habla español. (<i>There is someone here who speaks Spanish.</i>)

EXPLANATION: The first two sentences in Column A refer to what may or may not exist. The third sentence refers to something that definitely does not exist. These sentences are used with the subjunctive. The sentences in Column B refer to what definitely exists. They are used with the indicative.