

The Subjunctive



- In this slide show, we are going to look at a verb form that has all but disappeared from English – the subjunctive!

A few examples



- I want you to give me \$5.
- Tom would like us to arrive before 5:00 am.
- I order you to stop!

In these three examples, one person is trying to get another person to perform an action.

I want you to give me \$5.



- One person (I) wants another person (you) to do something (give \$5).
- However, there is no guarantee that you will give me \$5 just because I want you to.

Tom would like us to arrive before 5:00 am.



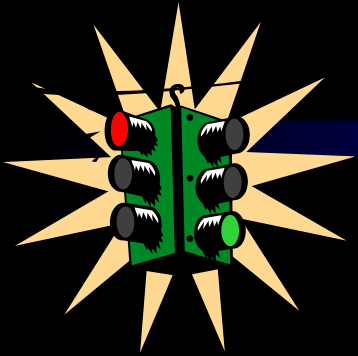
- Likewise, one person (Tom) wants someone else (us) to do something (arrive before 5:00 am).
- There is no guarantee that we will do so just because Tom would like that.



I order you to stop!

- This sentence is more forceful: one person (I) is telling another person (you) to do something (stop).
- Again, we don't know if you will stop despite the admonition.

The subjunctive



- In Spanish, we use a special verb form to show that the completion of these actions – give, arrive, stop – may or may not occur. This form is called the subjunctive (like the word “subjective” – influenced by opinions).

Examples in Spanish



- I want you to give me \$5 >>
- Quiero que me des \$5.
- Tom would like us to arrive before 5:00 am >>
- Tom quiere que lleguemos antes de las 5:00.
- I order you to stop >>
- Te mando que pares.



Look familiar??

- des, lleguemos, pares
- des << dé
- lleguemos << llegue
- pares << pare
- These are very similar to the formal command forms we studied previously (including the irregulars, such as dar >> dé).
- They merely have added familiar endings, such as **–mos** for nosotros and **–s** for tú.

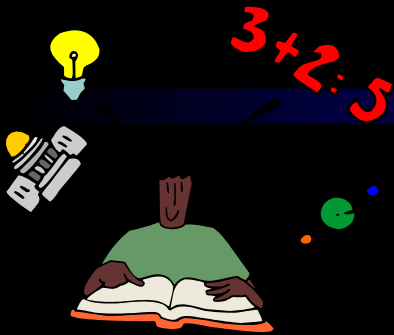
Verb forms



What about the other subjunctive forms?

<u>dar</u>	<u>estar</u>	<u>ser</u>	<u>ir</u>	<u>saber</u>
dé	esté	sea	vaya	sepa
des	estés	seas	vayas	sepas
dé	esté	sea	vaya	sepa
demos	estemos	seamos	vayamos	sepamos
den	estén	sean	vayan	sepan

Hey, that's not so hard!



- Just build the subjunctive from the command forms that you remember (if you don't remember, go back and watch that slide show again!).

A few examples



- What are the subjunctive forms of the following verbs?
- **hablar**
hable, hables, hable, hablemos, hablen
- **comer**
coma, comas, coma, comamos, coman
- **vivir**
viva, vivas, viva, vivamos, vivan



Too easy!

- How about some trickier ones?
- **Salir**
- Salga, salgas, salga, salgamos, salgan
 - Remember to start with the **yo** form, *salgo*
- **Ser**
- Sea, seas, sea, seamos, sean
 - The **yo** forms that don't end in –o are irregular in the command form and, consequently, the subjunctive.
- **Comenzar**
- Comience, comiences, comience, *comencemos*, comiencen
 - Remember that stem-changing verbs don't change in the nosotros form!

A few tricky ones

- **Dormir**

Duerma, duermas, duerma, *duermamos*, duerman

- **Servir**

Sirva, sirvas, sirva, *sirvamos*, sirvan

- Stem-changing IR verbs change in the nosotros form.



Now let's put this all together.



- Quiero que me des \$5.
- Tom quiere que lleguemos antes de las 5:00.
- Te mando que pares.

Tom quiere | que | lleguemos antes de las 5:00

- 
- The sentence structure in Spanish is a bit different from that of English. A word-for-word translation is “Tom wants that we arrive before 5:00.”
 - The word **que** is used to divide the sentence into two halves – the expression of wish or desire (Tom quiere) and the action that may or may not occur (lleguemos).
 - The verb in the first half uses the “normal” (“indicative”) form, while the verb in the second half uses the subjunctive.



Notice...

- ... that the subject in the first half is always different from the subject in the second half:
 - Quiero que me des \$5.
 - Tom quiere que lleguemos...
 - Te mando que pares.
- The first subject is trying to spur the second subject into action, and we don't know if the action will ever happen.



Compare this...

- ... to sentences where there is no change in subject:
 - Quiero salir ahora.
 - Tom quiere llegar a las 5.
 - Me gustaría comer pizza.
- When the subject is the same, there is higher probability that the second action will take place. We use the infinitive (-r form of the verb) after verbs that express wishes, wants, and desires.



Let's practice!

- What are the appropriate subjunctive forms of the verbs in parentheses?
- Quiero que tú _____ (venir) a las 3:00 en punto.
- Quiero que tú vengas a las 3:00 en punto.
 - We use the subjunctive because there is a change in subject after a verb of desire (quiero).



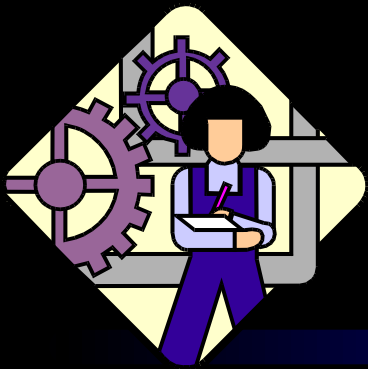
¡Quiero que me des otro!

- ¿Quieres que nosotros _____ (ir) al cine o a la playa esta tarde?
- Pues, quiero que _____ (quedarse = stay) en casa porque hace frío.
- ¿Quieres que nosotros vayamos al cine o a la playa esta tarde?
- Pues, quiero que nos quedemos en casa porque hace frío.



Uno más...

- Espero [*I hope*] que tu hermana ____ (hacer) bien sus exámenes.
- Espero que tu hermana **haga** bien sus exámenes.
 - We use the subjunctive after different types of verbs – wishes, wants, and orders. Here is another type: hopes.
 - We use the subjunctive because we aren't sure whether the second action will occur (Will your sister do well on her exams? That remains to be seen!).



Más ejemplos

- Mi mamá quiere que yo _____ (ser) doctor, y mi papá espera que _____ (estudiar) para ser ingeniero, pero yo quiero _____ (ser) actor.
- Mi mamá quiere que yo sea doctor, y mi papá espera que estudie para ser ingeniero, pero yo quiero ser actor
 - There is no change in subject in the third expression (“yo quiero”), so we don’t use the subjunctive!



Otro uso

- Lo siento [*I'm sorry*] que tu abuela ____ (estar) enferma. Espero que ____ (mejorarse = to get better) pronto.
- Lo siento que tu abuela esté enferma. Espero que se mejore pronto.
 - Another use of the subjunctive is with verbs of “regret,” such as saying “I’m sorry.” This is a little different from the other uses in that the second action has actually happened (i.e., your grandmother really is sick), but the subject in the first half is expressing an opinion and is therefore ‘influencing’ the second verb.

Let's review the uses



- We started by looking at one basic use of the subjunctive: it is used with verbs that express desires and wants.
- We then saw how the subjunctive is also used with verbs that express hope and regret.
- Are there any others?

¡Sí, por supuesto!



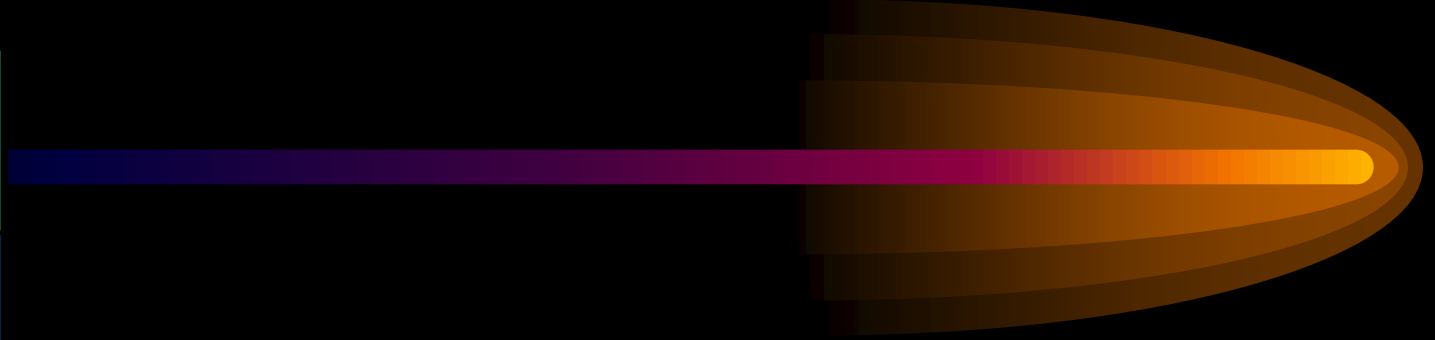
- There are many other uses of the subjunctive. The rest of the slide show will look at some of these.

U. W. E. I. R. D. O.



- Here's an acronym to help you organize the major uses of the subjunctive:
- **U. W. E. I. R. D. O.**
 - Thanks to members of the FLTEACH listserv for this acronym.
 - One list member credits the series “Sing, Dance, Laugh, and Eat Tacos” – you might want to check it out!

U. W. E. I. R. D. O.



- Uncertainty:
- No creo [*I don't believe*] que Laura venga a la fiesta.
- No pienso que pueda venir.
- Tal vez [*perhaps*] llegue tarde hoy por el tráfico.

U. W. E. I. R. D. O.



- **W**ishes
- Quiero que tú puedas visitarme durante las vacaciones.

U. W. E. I. R. D. O.



- **E**motion
- Me alegro que hayas recibido una “A” en la clase de historia.
- Me enfada [*it angers me*] que Juan no trabaje más en este proyecto.

U. W. E. I. R. D. O.

- **I**mpersonal expressions
- Es ridículo que Gloria sea la presidenta del club de alemán – ella recibió una “D-” en su clase el semestre pasado.
 - Impersonal expressions don’t have a “human” subject.
 - Some impersonal expressions in Spanish include: es bueno, es malo, es necesario, es difícil, es imposible, es triste...

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- **R**egret
- Lo siento que tu abuela esté enferma.
- Lamento que no podamos asistir a la reunión.

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- **D**oubt
- Dudo que alguien sea capaz de sacar un 100% en el examen final de física – ¡es un curso muy difícil!

U. W. E. I. R. D. O.



- **O**der
- Te mando que pares.
- Te prohíbo que uses tus apuntes [*notes*] durante el examen.

Wow!



- That's a lot!!
- If you continue your studies in Spanish, you will be certain to see these uses and many others.
- But for now, just concentrate on wishes and desires!