**Subjunctive Rules/WEIRDOS acronym**

- **Indicative indicates** that something is true/specifically experienced.

Subjunctive is used in a clause that is “joined (junc) under (sub)” the main clause, almost always preceded by *que*.

**One side of the que indicates...**
- Wishing, wanting
  - *Espero que ella hable español.*
- Emotions
  - *Me alegra que ella hable español.*
- Impersonal judgment expressions
  - *Es impresionante que ella hable español.*
- Recommendations
  - *Recomiendo que ella hable español.*
- Speculation
  - *Busco a una chica que hable español.* ************

**Past subjunctive can also be used when judging/influencing/speculating in the present about something in the past:** *Es interesante que hablara español.*

Use subjunctive when you do not wish to indicate that something is true/specifically experienced.

**Past (imperfect—*hablara*, or pluperfect—*hubiera hablado*) Subjunctive**

Use past subjunctive when main clause is past....: *Recomendé que hablara español.*...or **conditional with si:** *Le daría un abrazo si hablara/hubiera hablado español.*...or **when judging/influencing/speculating in the present about something in the past:** *Es interesante que hablara español.*

Past subjunctive can also be used to make a gentle request: *Sí no hay problema, yo quisiera hablar español.* ¿Pudiera hablar conmigo? **Debióramos** hablar más.

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**Consolidated Subjunctive Rules**

- **Indicative indicates** that something is true/specifically experienced.

Subjunctive is used in a clause that is “joined (junc) under (sub)” the main clause, almost always preceded by *que*.

The verb on the indicative side of the *que* seeks to influence (wish, *ojalá*, recommendation), makes a judgment about (emotions, impersonal expressions not expressing certainty, doubt), or speculates about something not true/specifically experienced on the other side of the *que*.

**Si clauses contrary-to-fact:**
- If *x* were true (past subj.), *I would y* (conditional).
  - *Si no tuviera un coche, iría en tren.*
  - *Como *si* is always followed by past subjunctive. Necesitas correr como si tuvieras ruedas.*

**antes (de) que**, even when followed by something already experienced, will be followed by subjunctive. The phrase takes the hearer back to a point in time before the verb in subjunctive was experienced.

**WEIRDOS only partially explains the subjunctive, but if you understand “Just the Concept”, most everything flows logically from there.**

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**Subjunctive: Just the Concept**

- **Indicative indicates** that something is true/specifically experienced.

Use subjunctive when you do not wish to indicate that something is true/specifically experienced.

**How do I apply this?**

Isolate the clause, then ask “Am I indicating that this is true/specifically experienced?” If not, it’s subjunctive.

*No tengo llave que funcione.*

**Indicating** that a specific key works? No. Subjunctive: *funcione.* Choose any example from any rectangle and try it. It works!

The toughest type of sentence to reconcile with this strategy is a judgment sentence like this: *¡Es increíble que hayas venido!* It’s hard because the person *has come*—and the coming is true and specifically experienced. But it’s subjunctive because we’re not indicating “you’ve come”—that’s too obvious to indicate. We’re indicating our reaction to that fact: “it’s incredible”.

**Why do I stipulate “specifically experienced”**?

Something similar may have been experienced before, but *has the specific thing/occurrence in-question been experienced?* Do we even know if it exists, or will happen?

*Busco un mesero que hable español.* (Waiter may not exist.)

*Busco al mesero que habla español.* (Waiter has been experienced.)

*Cuando vengan, traerán regalos.* (Specific coming not yet experienced.)

*Cuando vengan, traen regalos.* (Specific bringing has been experienced.)

*Hablaré...aunque me castigan.* (Punishment experienced in prior episodes.)

... *aunque me castiga.* (Application of punishment.)

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**No “subjunctive trigger” phrase?**

*Pase lo que pase.* Not indicating that anything has happened.

*Un teléfono que pueda funcionar sin pilas sería muy útil.*

We’re not indicating that a specific phone can function... *¿Que lueve café?* Is it raining coffee? No. *May/let it rain coffee!*