

Spanish: Subjunctive and Indicative

Understand that these are moods not tenses.

Mood – refers to how the speaker feels about an action

Tense – refers to when an action takes place

Subjunctive

Subjective, possible, not certain

W – Wishes, hopes, desires

E – Emotions

I – Impersonal statements

R – Requests

D – Doubt, denial

O – Ojalá

Verbs in the independent clause that trigger the verb in the dependent clause to be in the subjunctive:

Desear, esperar, exigir, insistir en, preferir, querer, pedir, necesitar, alegrarse de, enojar, sentir, encantar, lamentar, sorprender, recomendar, sugerir, aconsejar, mandar, dudar, no creer, no estar seguro, no comprender, no pensar, es extraño, es importante, no es cierto, , etc.

Indicative

Objective, certain, concrete

S – speech, communication

P – perceptions

O – Occurrences, events

C – Certainty

K – Knowledge, understanding

Verbs in the independent clause that trigger the verb in the dependent clause to be in the indicative:

Decir, estar seguro, afirmar, notar, creer, saber, ocurrir, suceder, pasar, observar, no dudar, estar claro, es obvio, es evidente, etc.

3 Main Elements that Signal the Use of the Subjunctive:

- 1) Two different subjects – one in the independent clause, one in the dependent clause
- 2) Two verbs – One WEIRDO (independent clause), one subjunctive (dependent clause)
- 3) A connector – “que” (most common)

If the verb in the independent clause is in a past tense or in the conditional, the verb in the dependent clause will be in the imperfect subjunctive.

If the verb in the independent clause is in the present tense, a command, or the future tense, the verb in the dependent clause will be in the present subjunctive.