

Indicative Mood

The **indicative mood** is used to talk about things that are **objective** and/or **certain**. This includes descriptions, actions, events, or states that are *believed to be facts* or *true*.

¡Ojo! "Indicative" does not mean "true." As long as a speaker *feels* that what they're saying is true, the indicative can be used, whether or not what they're saying is *actually* true.

The indicative mood is often used to talk about facts in the present, past, future, or conditional.

Words and Phrases that Trigger the Indicative

Many of the words and phrases that trigger the indicative fit into the acronym **SPOCK**, which stands for **Speech**, **Perceptions**, **Occurrences**, **Certainty**, and **Knowledge**.

In the table to the right, you'll find a list of words and phrases that tend to trigger the indicative in the verbs that follow them.

Category	Related Verbs and Phrases	Examples
Speech	decir, describir, gritar, indicar, mencionar, repetir, revelar, señalar, asegurar, comentar, afirmar, aludir a	Este cartel indica que no se puede fumar. <i>This sign indicates that you cannot smoke.</i>
Perceptions	notar, observar, oír, percibir, encontrarse, ver	Noto que últimamente estás muy cansada. <i>I notice that you are very tired lately.</i>
Occurrences	ocurrir, suceder, pasar, acontecer	Lo que pasa es que no tenemos dinero. <i>The thing is, we don't have any money.</i>
Certainty	ser/estar claro que, ser seguro que, ser cierto que, ser obvio que, ser evidente que	Es claro que se caen muy bien. <i>It's clear that they get along very well.</i>
Knowledge	creer, saber, averiguar, leer, enterarse de, aprender	Sé que te gusta mucho el café. <i>I know that you really like coffee.</i>

Subjunctive Mood

- The **subjunctive mood** is used to talk about things that are **subjective, possible, or uncertain**. This includes things like **doubts, wishes, recommendations, unknowns, and opinions** about the likelihood of other events occurring.
- The subjunctive mood is used with many of the same verb tenses as the indicative mood, including the present, the past, and the future. **¡Ojo!** The future subjunctive is rarely used in modern spoken Spanish, though you may see it in Spanish texts.

Features of Sentences that Use the Subjunctive

There are three main features that most sentences that use the subjunctive include: **two subjects, two verbs, and a relative pronoun**.

1. Two Subjects

Most subjunctive sentences will have one subject in the main clause and one in the secondary clause. The attitude of the subject in the main clause is what triggers the use of the subjunctive in the secondary clause.

Laura quiere que tú limpies el baño. *Laura wants you to clean the bathroom.*

It is perfectly possible to use the subjunctive when both clauses refer to the same subject. For example: **Dudo que yo pueda ir a la fiesta.** *I doubt I can go to the party.*

2. Two Verbs

Most subjunctive sentences have two verbs: a verb in the indicative in the main clause and a verb in the subjunctive in the secondary clause.

Dan quiere que yo conteste la llamada. *Dan wants me to answer the call.*

3. Que and Quien

Most subjunctive sentences have a linking word (such as **que** or **quien**) that links the main (indicative) clause to the secondary (subjunctive) clause.

Es posible que Victoria estudie español. *It is possible that Victoria studies Spanish.*

Words and Phrases that Trigger the Subjunctive: WEIRDO

Many of the words and phrases that trigger the subjunctive fit into the acronym **WEIRDO**, which stands for: **Wishes, Emotions, Impersonal expressions, Recommendations, Doubt/Denial, and Ojalá**. Below you'll find a list of words and phrases that tend to trigger the subjunctive in the verbs that follow them.

Category	Related Verbs and Phrases	Example Sentences
Wishes	desear, esperar, exigir, insistir, preferir, querer, pedir, necesitar	Espero que vengas a la fiesta. <i>I hope you come to the party.</i>
Emotions	alegrarse, enojarse, sentir, encantar, lamentar, quejarse, sorprender,	Me sorprende que pienses eso. <i>I'm surprised you think that.</i>
Impersonal expressions	es extraño que, es importante que, es fantástico que, es necesario que, no es cierto que, no es verdad que	Es importante que tengas tiempo libre. <i>It's important that you have free time.</i>
Recommendations	recomendar, sugerir, aconsejar, ordenar, mandar, insistir, rogar, proponer, exigir, prohibir, suplicar	Mi doctor recomienda que beba más agua. <i>My doctor recommends I drink more water.</i>
Doubt/Denial	dudar, no creer, no estar seguro, no parecer, no comprender, no pensar	Dudo que mi prima cocine la cena hoy. <i>I doubt that my cousin will cook dinner today.</i>
Ojalá	For this category, there's just one word - ojalá!	¡Ojalá que Sam recuerde nuestro aniversario! <i>I hope Sam remembers our anniversary!</i>

Ojalá is followed by a verb in the subjunctive whether or not it is used with the relative pronoun **que**.

Beyond WEIRDO: Expressing Uncertainty or Conditional Outcomes

Conditional Outcomes

When an action in a sentence occurs (or doesn't occur) as a result of another action, the subjunctive is used to convey a sense of **uncertainty**. In sentences like these, the **key action** (the action that determines whether the second action occurs) uses the subjunctive and is usually introduced by an expression indicating a **time limitation, condition, concession, or result**.

Limpiaré el cuarto después de que salgan. *I will clean the room after they leave.*

Te veo cuando llegues. *I'll see you when you get here.*

Time Limitations

Expressions like those below introduce the idea of a **time limitation**.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English
antes (de) que	<i>before</i>	siempre que	<i>whenever</i>
hasta que	<i>until</i>	en cuanto	<i>as soon as</i>
cuando	<i>when</i>	tan pronto como	<i>as soon as</i>
luego que	<i>as soon as</i>	mientras	<i>while</i>
después (de) que	<i>after</i>		

Llárame antes de que vengan. *Call me before they come.*

Conditions

Expressions like those below introduce the idea of a **condition**, i.e., an action dependent on something else occurring.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English
a menos que	<i>unless</i>	con tal (de) que	<i>provided that, as long as</i>
a no ser que	<i>unless</i>	sea que	<i>whether</i>
con/a condición de que	<i>on the condition that</i>	siempre y cuando	<i>provided that, as long as</i>
en caso (de) que	<i>in case, in the event that</i>		

No voy a no ser que vayas conmigo. *I'm not going unless you go with me.*

Concessions

Expressions like those below introduce the idea of a **concession**, i.e., an action that occurs in spite of something else.

Spanish	English
aun cuando	<i>even if, even when</i>
aunque	<i>although, even if, though</i>

Aunque esté lloviendo, voy a correr. *Even if it's raining, I'm going running.*

¡Ojo! **Aunque** does not always take the subjunctive. If the conditional statement is considered hypothetical, use the subjunctive. If the statement is considered factual, use the indicative. Compare: **Aunque esté lloviendo, saldré a correr.** (= *I don't know if it's raining.*) **Aunque está lloviendo, saldré a correr.** (= *I know it's raining.*)

Results

The following expressions introduce the idea of a **result**.

Spanish	English	Spanish	English
a fin de que	<i>in order (that), so that, so as</i>	para que	<i>in order (that), so that, so as</i>
de manera que	<i>in order (that), so that, so as</i>	que	<i>in order (that), so that, so as</i>
de modo que	<i>in order (that), so that, so as</i>		

Voy a cerrar las ventanas a fin de que no entren moscas. *I am going to close the windows so that flies won't come in.*