**12.3** # The present subjunctive (S) Tutorial

ANTE TODO With the exception of commands, all the verb forms you have been using have been in the indicative mood. The indicative is used to state facts and to express actions or states that the speaker considers to be real and definite. In contrast, the subjunctive mood expresses the speaker's attitudes toward events, as well as actions or states the speaker views as uncertain or hypothetical.

> Por favor, quiten los platos de la mesa.

> Les aconsejo que preparen la cena.

▶ The present subjunctive is formed very much like **usted**, **ustedes**, and *negative* **tú** commands. From the **yo** form of the present indicative, drop the **-o** ending, and replace it with the subjunctive endings.

INFINITIVE	PRESENT INDICATIVE	VERB STEM	PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE
hablar comer escribir	hablo como escribo	habl- com- escrib-	hable coma escriba
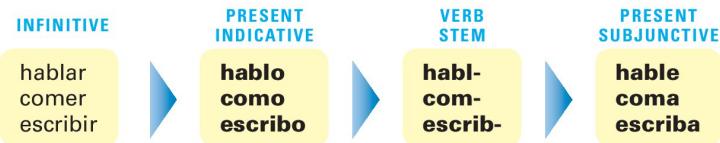
▶ The present subjunctive endings are:

-ar verbs

-e	-emos
-es	-éis
-e	-en

-er and -ir verbs

-a	-amos
-as	-áis
-a	-an

Present subjunctive of regular verbs

		hablar	**comer**	**escribir**
SINGULAR FORMS	yo	hable	coma	escriba
	tú	hables	comas	escribas
	Ud./él/ella	hable	coma	escriba
PLURAL FORMS	nosotros/as	hablemos	comamos	escribamos
	vosotros/as	habléis	comáis	escribáis
	Uds./ellos/ellas	hablen	coman	escriban

AYUDA

Note that, in the present subjunctive, **-ar** verbs use endings normally associated with present tense **-er** and **-ir** verbs. Likewise, **-er** and **-ir** verbs in the present subjunctive use endings normally associated with **-ar** verbs in the present tense. Note also that, in the present subjunctive, the **yo** form is the same as the **Ud./él/ella** form.

¡LENGUA VIVA!

You may think that English has no subjunctive, but it does! While once common, it now survives mostly in set expressions such as *If I were you...* and *Be that as it may...*

▶ Verbs with irregular **yo** forms show the same irregularity in all forms of the present subjunctive.

Infinitive	Present indicative	Verb stem	Present subjunctive
conducir	conduzco	conduzc-	conduzca
conocer	conozco	conozc-	conozca
decir	digo	dig-	diga
hacer	hago	hag-	haga
ofrecer	ofrezco	ofrezc-	ofrezca
oír	oigo	oig-	oiga
parecer	parezco	parezc-	parezca
poner	pongo	pong-	ponga
tener	tengo	teng-	tenga
traducir	traduzco	traduzc-	traduzca
traer	traigo	traig-	traiga
venir	vengo	veng-	venga
ver	veo	ve-	vea

▶ To maintain the **c, g,** and **z** sounds, verbs ending in **-car, -gar,** and **-zar** have a spelling change in all forms of the present subjunctive.

sacar:	sa**qu**e, sa**qu**es, sa**qu**e, sa**qu**emos, sa**qu**éis, sa**qu**en
jugar:	jue**gu**e, jue**gu**es, jue**gu**e, ju**gu**emos, ju**gu**éis, jue**gu**en
almorzar:	almuer**c**e, almuer**c**es, almuer**c**e, almor**c**emos, almor**c**éis, almuer**c**en

Present subjunctive of stem-changing verbs

▶ **-Ar** and **-er** stem-changing verbs have the same stem changes in the subjunctive as they do in the present indicative.

pensar (e:ie):	p**ie**nse, p**ie**nses, p**ie**nse, pensemos, penséis, p**ie**nsen
mostrar (o:ue):	m**ue**stre, m**ue**stres, m**ue**stre, mostremos, mostréis, m**ue**stren
entender (e:ie):	ent**ie**nda, ent**ie**ndas, ent**ie**nda, entendamos, entendáis, ent**ie**ndan
volver (o:ue):	v**ue**lva, v**ue**lvas, v**ue**lva, volvamos, volváis, v**ue**lvan

▶ **-Ir** stem-changing verbs have the same stem changes in the subjunctive as they do in the present indicative, but in addition, the **nosotros/as** and **vosotros/as** forms undergo a stem change. The unstressed **e** changes to **i**, while the unstressed **o** changes to **u**.

pedir (e:i):	p**i**da, p**i**das, p**i**da, p**i**damos, p**i**dáis, p**i**dan
sentir (e:ie):	s**ie**nta, s**ie**ntas, s**ie**nta, s**i**ntamos, s**i**ntáis, s**ie**ntan
dormir (o:ue):	d**ue**rma, d**ue**rmas, d**ue**rma, d**u**rmamos, d**u**rmáis, d**ue**rman

Irregular verbs in the present subjunctive

▶ These five verbs are irregular in the present subjunctive.

Irregular verbs in the present subjunctive					
	dar	**estar**	**ir**	**saber**	**ser**
yo	**dé**	**esté**	**vaya**	**sepa**	**sea**
tú	**des**	**estés**	**vayas**	**sepas**	**seas**
Ud./él/ella	**dé**	**esté**	**vaya**	**sepa**	**sea**
nosotros/as	**demos**	**estemos**	**vayamos**	**sepamos**	**seamos**
vosotros/as	**deis**	**estéis**	**vayáis**	**sepáis**	**seáis**
Uds./ellos/ellas	**den**	**estén**	**vayan**	**sepan**	**sean**

SINGULAR FORMS (yo, tú, Ud./él/ella); PLURAL FORMS (nosotros/as, vosotros/as, Uds./ellos/ellas)

▶ **¡Atención!** The subjunctive form of **hay** (*there is, there are*) is also irregular: **haya**.

General uses of the subjunctive

▶ The subjunctive is mainly used to express: 1) will and influence, 2) emotion, 3) doubt, disbelief, and denial, and 4) indefiniteness and nonexistence.

▶ The subjunctive is most often used in sentences that consist of a main clause and a subordinate clause. The main clause contains a verb or expression that triggers the use of the subjunctive. The conjunction **que** connects the subordinate clause to the main clause.

Main clause	**Connector**	**Subordinate clause**
Es muy importante	que	**vayas** al hotel ahora mismo.
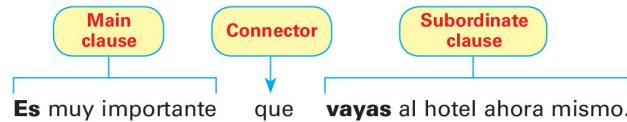
▶ These impersonal expressions are always followed by clauses in the subjunctive:

Es bueno que…	**Es mejor que…**	**Es malo que…**
It's good that…	*It's better that…*	*It's bad that…*
Es importante que…	**Es necesario que…**	**Es urgente que…**
It's important that…	*It's necessary that…*	*It's urgent that…*

¡INTÉNTALO!   Indica el presente de subjuntivo de estos verbos.

1. (alquilar, beber, vivir)   que yo ___alquile, beba, viva___
2. (estudiar, aprender, asistir)   que tú _____
3. (encontrar, poder, tener)   que él _____
4. (hacer, pedir, dormir)   que nosotras _____
5. (dar, hablar, escribir)   que ellos _____
6. (pagar, empezar, buscar)   que ustedes _____
7. (ser, ir, saber)   que yo _____
8. (estar, dar, oír)   que tú _____