

14.1

The subjunctive in adjective clauses



ANTE TODO

In **Lección 13**, you learned that the subjunctive is used in adverbial clauses after certain conjunctions. You will now learn how the subjunctive can be used in adjective clauses to express that the existence of someone or something is uncertain or indefinite.

¿Conoces una joyería que esté cerca?



No, no conozco ninguna joyería que esté cerca de aquí.



- The subjunctive is used in an adjective (or subordinate) clause that refers to a person, place, thing, or idea that either does not exist or whose existence is uncertain or indefinite. In the examples below, compare the differences in meaning between the statements using the indicative and those using the subjunctive.

Indicative

Necesito **el libro** que **tiene** información sobre Venezuela.
*I need **the book** that has information about Venezuela.*

Quiero vivir en **esta casa** que **tiene** jardín.
*I want to live in **this house** that has a garden.*

En mi barrio, hay **una heladería** que **vende** helado de mango.
*In my neighborhood, **there's an ice cream shop** that sells mango ice cream.*

Subjunctive

Necesito **un libro** que **tenga** información sobre Venezuela.
*I need **a book** that has information about Venezuela.*

Quiero vivir en **una casa** que **tenga** jardín.
*I want to live in **a house** that has a garden.*

En mi barrio no hay **ninguna heladería** que **venda** helado de mango.
*In my neighborhood, **there is no ice cream shop** that sells mango ice cream.*

- When the adjective clause refers to a person, place, thing, or idea that is clearly known, certain, or definite, the indicative is used.

Quiero ir **al supermercado** que **vende** productos venezolanos.
*I want to go to **the supermarket** that sells Venezuelan products.*

Busco **al profesor** que **enseña** japonés.
*I'm looking for **the professor** who teaches Japanese.*

Conozco **a alguien** que **va** a esa peluquería.
*I know **someone** who goes to that beauty salon.*

Tengo **un amigo** que **vive** cerca de mi casa.
*I have **a friend** who lives near my house.*

¡ATENCIÓN!

Adjective clauses are subordinate clauses that modify a noun or pronoun in the main clause of a sentence. That noun or pronoun is called the *antecedent*.

¡ATENCIÓN!

Observe the important role that the indefinite article vs. the definite article plays in determining the use of the subjunctive in adjective clauses. Read the following sentences and notice why they are different:

¿Conoces un restaurante italiano que esté cerca de mi casa?

¿Conoces el restaurante italiano que está cerca de mi casa?

- The personal **a** is not used with direct objects that are hypothetical people. However, as you learned in **Lección 7**, **alguien** and **nadie** are always preceded by the personal **a** when they function as direct objects.

Necesitamos **un empleado** que **sepa** usar computadoras.
We need an employee who knows how to use computers.

Buscamos **a alguien** que **pueda** cocinar.
We're looking for someone who can cook.

Necesitamos **al empleado** que **sabe** usar computadoras.
We need the employee who knows how to use computers.

No conocemos **a nadie** que **pueda** cocinar.
We don't know anyone who can cook.

- The subjunctive is commonly used in questions with adjective clauses when the speaker is trying to find out information about which he or she is uncertain. However, if the person who responds to the question knows the information, the indicative is used.

—¿Hay un parque que **esté** cerca de nuestro hotel?
Is there a park that's near our hotel?

—Sí, hay un parque que **está** muy cerca del hotel.
Yes, there's a park that's very near the hotel.

- **¡Atención!** Here are some verbs that are commonly followed by adjective clauses in the subjunctive:

Verbs commonly used with subjunctive

buscar
conocer
encontrar

haber
necesitar
querer



¡INTÉNTALO!

Escoge entre el subjuntivo y el indicativo para completar cada oración.

1. Necesito una persona que pueda (puede/pueda) cantar bien.
2. Buscamos a alguien que _____ (tiene/tenga) paciencia.
3. ¿Hay restaurantes aquí que _____ (sirven/sirvan) comida japonesa?
4. Tengo una amiga que _____ (saca/saque) fotografías muy bonitas.
5. Hay una carnicería que _____ (está/esté) cerca de aquí.
6. No vemos ningún apartamento que nos _____ (interesa/interese).
7. Conozco a un estudiante que _____ (come/coma) hamburguesas todos los días.
8. ¿Hay alguien que _____ (dice/diga) la verdad?

recursos

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