The Subjunctive Tense is very commonly used in the Spanish language. It is important that you recognise when to use it. Study the rules below carefully.

1. **Desire Sentences**

* Espero que ganes la lotería – *I hope that you win the lottery*
* Sugiero que compres la camiseta roja – *I suggest that you buy the red t-shirt*
* Insistimos en que (él) friegue los platos – *We insist that he washes up*
* Rogamos que se alivie – *We pray that he/she gets better*
* ¿Quieres que yo vaya al cine contigo? – *Do you want me to go to the cinema with you?*

1. **Ignorance Sentences**

* Dudo que él viva aquí - *I doubt that he lives here*
* No pienso / creo que ella sepa mi nombre – *I don’t think / believe she knows my name*

1. **Impersonal Expressions**

* Es mejor que nos quedemos aquí – *It’s better that we stay here*
* Es importante que estudies mucho – *It’s important that you study a lot*
* Es probable que el vuelo salga tarde – *It’s probable that the flight will leave late*

1. **Future Reference / Hypothetical Events / Uncompleted actions**

* Cuando terminemos los exámenes, vamos a echar una gran fiesta – *When we finish the exams, we are going to have a big party*
* Me sentiré mejor cuando me siente – *I’ll feel better when I sit down*

1. **Maybe / Perhaps / If only / even if**

* Quizás tenga todo el dinero – *Perhaps he has (may have) all the money*
* Ojalá gane el premio – *If only I win the prize*
* Aunque lo sepa él, no nos lo dirá – *Even though he knows, he won’t tell us*

1. **After the expressions antes de que (before), con tal que (as long as), a menos que (unless), para que (so that)**

* Limpiaremos la casa antes de que vuelvan mis padres – *We’ll clean the house before my parents get back*
* Haré la tarea con tal que me pagues más – *I’ll do the job as long as you pay me more*
* No va a aprobar a menos que estudie más – *He/she is not going to pass unless he/she studies more*
* Ahorraré dinero para que pueda ir a Mallorca – *I will save up so that I can go to Mallorca*

1. **After ‘que’ meaning ‘may’**

* ¡Que pases unas buenas vacaciones! – *Have (may you have) a good holiday!*
* ¡Que no lo hagas! – *Don’t (may you please not) do it!*
* ¡Qué vaya bien! – *I hope it goes well! (May it go well!)*

**Formation of the Present Subjunctive:**

Nearly all verbs in the Present Subjunctive are formed in the same way. There are 3 steps to follow: -

1. Take the ‘yo’ form of the Present Tense:
2. Remove the ‘o’ ending:
3. Add the following endings:

* ‘AR’ verbs – e – es – e – emos – éis – en
* ‘ER’ verbs – a – as – a – amos – áis – an
* ‘IR’ verbs – a – as – a – amos – áis – an

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 |
| (hablar) hablo | habl | hable, hables, hable, hablemos, habléis, hablen |
| (comer ) como | com | coma, comas, coma, comamos, comáis, coman |
| (vivir ) vivo | viv | viva, vivas, viva, vivamos, viváis, vivan |
| (conocer) conozco | conozc | conozca, conozcas, conozca, conozcamos, conozcáis, conozcan |
| (tener) tengo | teng | tenga, tengas, tenga, tengamos, tengáis, tengan |
| (hacer) hago | hag | haga, hagas, haga, hagamos, hagáis, hagan |
| (querer) quiero | quier | quiera, quieras, quieras, queramos, queráis, quieran |
| (salir) salgo | salg | salga, salgas, salga, salgamos, salgáis, salgan |
| (ver) veo | ve | vea, veas, vea, veamos, veáis, vean |

\*\*\*You can see that is it crucial to know the Present tense in order to form the Present Subjunctive.

Note that there is no stem change in the ‘nosotros’ or ‘vosotros’ forms, except in ‘ir’ stem-changing verbs. These verbs change as follows: -

o → ue verbs. ‘Dormir‘ (yo duermo) becomes - Durmamos , durmáis

e → ie verbs. ‘Mentir’ (yo miento) becomes - Mintamos, mintáis

e → i verbs. ‘Pedir’ (yo pido) becomes - Pidamos, pidáis

Irregularly formed verbs

Six verbs do not follow the normal pattern: -

Dar – dé, des, dé, demos, déis, den

Estar – esté, estés, esté, estemos, estéis, estén

Haber – haya, hayas, haya, hayamos, hayáis, hayan

Ir – vaya, vayas, vaya, vayamos, vayáis, vayan

Saber – sepa, sepas, sepa, sepamos, sepáis, sepan

Ser – sea, seas, sea, seamos, seáis, sean

Using the Present Subjunctive

The Subjunctive is used when the main verb expresses desire, ignorance or an impersonal opinion on the part of the subject.

A sentence can usually be divided into two parts: the main clause and the subordinate clause which are normally separated by ‘que’ meaning ‘;who’, ‘which’ or ‘that’.

The main clause contains the desire, ignorance or impersonal expression which is in the indicative tense. The subordinate clause contains that which is being considered and this is written in the subjunctive tense.

Study the following sentence: -

**I doubt that he works much – (Yo) dudo que (él) trabaje mucho.**

1. **Expressions of Desire**

There are several verbs that express a wish, a preference, a request, doubt, etc. in the main clause which set up a need for the subjunctive in the subordinate clause. In these cases, the subject says what he or she would like to happen.

Look at the verbs below: -

Esperar – to hope

Exigir – to demand

Insistir en – to insist (on)

Ojalá – God willing, I strongly hope

Pedir – to request, ask (someone to do something)

Preferir – to prefer

Querer – to want

Rogar – to pray, beg

Sugerir – to suggest

\* Note that some of these verbs translate differently into Spanish. Also, there are ocassions in English when the ‘que’ can be left out but it must always be included in Spanish.

Juan quiere que yo gane el partido – John wants me to win the match. (John wants that I win)

Espero que me compren un regalo – I hope that they buy me a present.

Mi madre pide que (tú) sirvas el café – My mother is asking / requests that you serve the coffee.

**¡Qué fácil que es el subjuntivo! ¿No?**

Ahora, te toca a ti.

**¿Qué significan las frases siguientes: -**

1. Ojalá que no tenga un examen hoy.

\_\_ I strongly hope that there is not an exam today\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Espero que haga buen tiempo mañana.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I hope that there will be good weather\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. ¡Espero que el próximo Primer Ministro diga la verdad!

\_\_\_\_\_\_I hope that the next minister will tell the truth \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Quiero que mis amigos sean amables.

\_\_\_\_\_I want my friends to be kind \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Prefiero que haya nieve en la Navidad

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I would prefer it to snow for Christmas \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Espero que no llueva el fin de semana que viene.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I hope it does not rain on the weekend\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Excepto en caso de emergencia, sugiero que nadie me llame después de las diez de la noche.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Except for emergencies, I suggest that nobody calls me after ten at night\_\_\_\_\_

1. Cuando tengo una fiesta, quiero que mis invitados lleguen a tiempo.

\_\_\_\_\_\_When I have a party, I want my guest to arrive on time\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Pido que mis vecinos no tengan muchas fiestas ruidosas.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I request that my neighbours might not have too many noisy parties \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Espero que no haya cucarachas en mi cocina.

\_\_\_\_\_I hope there is not cockroach in my kitchen\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Cuando asisto a una reunión, prefiero que no sea larga ni aburrida.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_When I attend a gathering, I prefer that it may not be long or boring \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Insisto en que las personas me den el mismo respeto que yo les doy a ellos.

\_I insist in that people may give me the same respect that I give to them\_

1. **Ahora, traduce estas frases al español.**
2. I hope that she speaks with me tomorrow.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Espero que ella hable conmigo\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. I want you to eat the bread! (I want that you eat the bread!).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Quiero que te comas el pan\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. He wants me to write a letter.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Él quiere que escriba una carta\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. We pray that you are well.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Nosotros rogamos que estés bien\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. They want us to do the work.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Ellos quieren que hagamos el trabajo\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. She hopes that you can come to the party.

\_\_\_\_\_\_Ella espera que tu puedas venir a la fiesta\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. They suggest that you watch the news series on TV tonight.

\_\_\_\_\_\_Ellos sugieren que veas las series de noticias en la televisión\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. I insist that you (vosotros) work.

\_\_\_\_Insisto en que trabajéis\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. He requests that we be here at nine o’clock.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_él pide que estemos allí a las nueve en punto\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Why do you want me to lie?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_¿Por qué quieres que mienta? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. I prefer that we don’t leave the house until five o’clock.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Prefiero que no dejemos la casa hasta las cinco en punto\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. She hopes that you know her.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Ella espera que la conozcas\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. We insist (on) that you eat with us.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Insistimos en que comas con nosotros\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you prefer me to count the money?

\_\_\_\_\_¿Prefieres que cuente el dinero?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. They suggest that we put the papers in the cabinet.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Ellos sugieren que pongamos los papeles en el gabinete\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Traduce el párrafo abajo.**

Tomorrow is the first day of my new job. I hope that everything goes well for me. My boss seems very friendly, but I prefer her to be more fair than friendly. I want her to understand that if I make a mistake, I want her to tell me directly. Before the first week ends, I’m going to ask her to inform me what she thinks of my performance. If she suggests that I change some aspect of my work, it will be easier to do so then than after working there for a few months.

*¡Un consejo! – ¡A piece of advice! Underline the constructions that require the use of the subjunctive and then, underline the verbs that need to be changed into the subjunctive form.*

Mañana es el primer día de mi nuevo trabajo.Espero que todo me vaya bien. Mi jefa parecer ser amistosa, pero yo prefiero que ella sea más justa que amistosa. Yo quero que ella entienda que si cometo un error, quiero que me lo diga directamente. Antes de que el primer fin de semana termine, le vou a pedir que me informe de lo que piensa de mi rendimiento. Si ella sugiere que cambie algun aspecto de mi trabajo, Será mejor hacerlo entonces que despues de trabajar alli por algunos meses.

1. **Ignorance**

Verbs in the main clause that express ignorance or doubt set up a need for the subjunctive in the subordinate clause. In these cases, the subject (in the main clause) expresses uncertainty or ignorance of the outcome of the action in the subordinate clause.

Here are some common verbs of ignorance: -

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| --- | --- |
| **dudar que** | *to doubt that* |
| **\*no creer que** | *to not believe that* |
| **\*no estar convencido/a de que** | *to not be convinced that* |
| **\*no estar seguro/a de que** | *to not be sure that* |
| **\*no imaginarse que** | *to not imagine that* |
| **\*no parecer que** | *to not seem that* |
| **\*no pensar que** | *to not think that* |
| **\*no suponer que** | *to not suppose that* |
| **temer que** | *to suspect, fear that* |

\*Note that all the negative verbs above do not require to be followed by the subjunctive tense if they are used in the affirmative form (e.g. creo, supongo, estoy seguro/a de que, etc.). In actual fact, they are followed by the normal present tense (indicative).

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| --- | --- |
| **Affirmative / Present** | **Negative / Subjunctive** |
| **Yo creo que Juan tiene el dinero.**  *I think that John has the money.* | **Yo no creo que Juan tenga el dinero.**  *I don’t think that John has the money.* |

1. **Ahora, traduce las frases abajo al español.**
2. I doubt that she eats in that restaurant.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Dudo que ella coma en ese restaurante\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. I don’t suppose that you’ll tell me his name.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_No supongo que no me digas su nombre\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. They don’t believe that he plays the piano.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Ellos no creen que el toque el piano\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. She isn’t sure that the coffee is ready.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Ella no esta segura de que el café este listo\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. We don’t think that Barcelona will win the game.

\_\_\_\_\_\_No creemos que Barcelona gane el partido\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. He is not convinced that I need so much money.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Él no esta convencido de que yo necesite tanto dinero\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Why don’t you believe that we know him?

\_\_\_\_\_\_ ¿Pro qué no crees que yo lo conozca?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. We aren’t convinced that anyone will land (aterrizar) on the moon (la luna).

\_\_\_\_\_\_No estamos convencidos de que alguien aterrize en la luna \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. He doubts that they know the answer.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Él duda que ellos sepan la respuesta\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. She isn’t sure that we always know the truth.

\_\_\_\_\_\_Ella no está segura de que siempre sepamos la verdad\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Why aren’t you convinced that I am always right (tener razón)?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_¿Por qué no estás convencida de que siempre tenga la razón\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. It doesn’t seem that he wants to be here.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_No parece que él quiera estar aquí\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. I’m not sure that you can read this.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_No estoy seguro/a de que puedas leer esto \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. He doesn’t believe that I am his cousin.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Él no cree que yo sea su primo\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. I don’t imagine that you believe my story (la historia).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_No me imagino que me creas la historia\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Esta vez, traduce el párrafo abajo al español. Recuerda que hay que poner los verbos subrayados en el subjuntivo.**

I doubt that John knows that we’re planning a party for him. It doesn’t seem possible that he is the president of this company, and I don’t imagine that he believes it either. I doubt that he likes this new position and I’m not convinced that he is ready for so much responsibility. On the other hand, I don’t suppose that anyone can become a great leader overnight. Whatever happens, I want everything to go well for him.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *To plan* | planear | *No one (anyone)* | Nadie |
| *Company* | La compañía | *To become* | Hacerse |
| *Either / neither* | tampoco | *A leader* | Un líder |
| *To be ready* | Estar listo/a | *overnight* | De la noche a la mañana |
| *So much* | tanto | *Whatever happens* | Pase lo que pase |

Dudo que John sepa que estamos planeando una fiesta para él. No parece possible que él sea el president de esta empresa, y no me parece que él lo crea tampoco. Dudo que le guste este nuevo cargo y no estoy convencido/a de que él esté listo para tanta resposabilidad. Por otra parte, No supongo que nadie pueda convertirse en un gran leader de la noche a la mañana. Pase lo que pase, quiero que todo vaya bien para él.

1. **Impersonal Opinion**

An impersonal expression expresses emotion, uncertainty, unreality or an indirect or implied command. E.g. It is important that / It is unlikely that / It’s a pity that, etc.

When it is used in the main clause, again it sets up the need for a subjunctive in the subordinate clause.

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| --- | --- |
| **Conviene que** | *It is advisable that* |
| **Es fantástico que** | *It is fantastic that* |
| **Es importante que** | *It is important that* |
| **Es improbable que** | *It is unlikely that* |
| **Es imposible que** | *It is impossible that* |
| **Es increíble que** | *It is incredible that* |
| **Es una lástima que** | *It is a pity that* |
| **Es mejor que** | *It is better that* |
| **Es necesario que** | *It is necessary that* |
| **Es posible que** | *It is possible that* |
| **Es probable que** | *It is probable that* |
| **Es preferible que** | *It is preferable that* |
| **Es ridículo que** | *It is ridiculous that* |
| **Es terrible que** | *It is terrible that* |
| **Más vale que** | *It is better that (It is worth more that)* |
| **Ojalá (que)** | *I hope (that); if only s/he (it, they, etc.) would, could* |
| **Puede ser que** | *It may be that* |

Ejemplos:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Es una lástima que yo **esté** enfermo | *It’s a pity that* ***I’m*** *sick* |
| Es necesario que **te vayas** ahora | *It’s necessary that* ***you go*** *now* |
| Ojalá que no **llueva** mañana | *I hope* ***it doesn’t rain*** *tomorrow* |
| Es mejor que **comamos** el apio | *It’s better that* ***we eat*** *the celery* |
| Es importante que **miréis** este programa | *It’s important that* ***you watch*** *this programme* |
| Conviene que ellos **sepan** su direccíón | *It’s advisable that* ***they know*** *their address* |

1. **Traduce las frases siguientes al español**
2. It’s better that we eat in the kitchen.

Es mejor que comamos en la cocina.\_

1. It’ necessary that you call them tomorrow.

Es necesario que los llames mañana.\_\_\_\_

1. It’s preferable that you buy the eggs by the dozen.

Es preferible que compres los huevos por docena.\_\_

1. It’s unlikely that they’ll be ready by 5 o’clock.

Es improbable que ellos estén listos a las cinco en punto.\_\_

1. It’s advisable that you (sing.) have a lawyer with you.

Conviene que tu tengas un abogado contigo.\_\_\_

1. It’s important that no one know that secret.

Es importante que nadie sepa ese secreto.\_\_

1. It may be that Alice doesn’t work here anymore. (Not anymore = ya no + conjugated verb).

Puede ser que Alice ya no trabaje más aquí.\_\_\_

1. It’s ridiculous that so many politicians don’t tell the truth.

Es ridiculo que tantos políticos no digan la verdad.\_

1. It’s impossible that I be in two places at the same time.

Es imposible que yo esté en dos sitios al mismo tiempo.\_

1. It’s incredible that he speaks twelve languages.

Es incredible que él hable doce idiomas \_\_\_

1. It’s a shame that ice cream has so many calories.

Es una lástima que el helado tenga tantas calorías.\_\_

1. If only Jane wouldn’t sing at the wedding.

Ojalá que Jane no cante en la boda.

1. It’s fantastic that we don’t have to sit next to them.

Es fantástico que nosotros no tengamos que sentarnos al lado de él.\_

1. It may be that Steven isn’t what (lo que) he says he is.

Puede ser que Steven no sea lo que él dice que es.\_\_

1. It’s fantastic that we have to study grammar!

Es fantástico que tengamos que estudiar.

* 1. **Ahora, traduce el párrafo siguiente.**

Last night, I read for the first time the rules and regulations of the company where I have worked for six years. It’s possible that I am the only person who has read this leaflet. There are so many absurd rules. For example, it’s ridiculous that we should keep are desks neat at all times. It’s better that a person have the freedom to be a slob if that is what he/she needs in order to work well. Also, it’s incredible that we have to attend all meetings, including the ones that have nothing to do with our own work (nobody ever goes to these meetings!). It’s better that we work at a messy desk than listen to a load of nonsense in a neat boardroom and twiddle our thumbs. If only they would stop enforcing these rules!

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *A rule* | Una regla | *A meeting* | Una reunión |
| *A regulation* | Un reglamento | *To have nothing to do with* | No tener nada que ver con |
| *Absurd* | Absurdo | *Messy / untidy* | Desordenado |
| *To keep* | Mantener | *Rubbish* | Unas tonterías |
| *Neat* | Ordenado | *A boardroom* | Una sala de juntas |
| *A slob* | Un cochino | *Twiddle one’s thumbs* | Voltear los pulgares |

Anoche, leí por primera vez las reglas y reglamentos de la compañia donde he trabajado por seis años. Es possible que yo sea la única persona que haya leido este folleto. Hay muchas reglas absurdas. Por ejemplo, Es ridiculo que tengamos que mantener nuestros escritorios ordenados todo el tiempo. Es mejor que una persona tenga la libertad de ser un cochino si eso es lo que él/ella necesita para trabajar bien. También es incredible que tengamos que asistir a toda las reunions, incluyendo las que no tienen nada que ver con nuestro trabajo (¡nadie va nunca a esas reunions!). Es mejor que trabajemos en escritorios desordenados que que escuchemos un monton de tonterias en una sala de juntas y voltearnos los pulgares. ¡Si solo pararan de hacer cumplir estas reglas!.

1. **Uncompleted Action (Reference to future time)**

The Subjunctive is also used when the action in the subordinate clause has yet to happen. For example, “I’ll speak with John *when he arrives*.” Obviously, the action of John arriving is going to occur in the future and it is the reference to a future event that brings about the need for a subjunctive.

Here are some common phrases which set up the subjunctive:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A menos que** | *Unless* |
| **Antes de que** | *Before* |
| **Con tal que** | *Provided that* |
| **Cuando** | *When* |
| **Después de que** | *After* |
| **En caso de que** | *In case* |
| **Hasta que** | *Until* |
| **Mientras que** | *While* |
| **Para que** | *So that; in order that* |
| **Sin que** | *Without* |
| **Tan pronto como** | *As soon as* |

1. **Escribe los significados de las frases abajo**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ella te llamará **tan pronto como yo llegue** |  |
| Él no irá **a menos que tú vayas** |  |
| Estudiaré **en caso de que haya** un examen |  |
| Cocinaré **para que podamos** comer a las 9 |  |
| Tocaré el piano **con tal que cantéis** |  |
| Trabajaremos **hasta que cierren** la oficina |  |

1. **Ahora, traduce las frases siguientes al español**
   1. I won’t eat until I’m hungry/ No comeré hasta que tenga hambre.
   2. I’ll write you a note so that you remember to buy mil / Escribiré una nota para que tú recuerdes comprar la leche.
   3. You’ll feel better after you take this medicine. R: Te sentirás mejors después de que tomes esta medicina.
   4. He won’t marry a woman unless she is rich! R: Él no se casará con una mujer a menos que sea rica.
   5. You can’t hunt unless you have a licence. R: No puedes cazar a menos que tengas una licencia.
   6. I’ll wipe (dry) the dishes while you wash them. R: Yo secaré los platos mientras que tú los laves.
   7. The priest can’t baptise (bautizar) the baby before the godparents (los padrinos) arrive. R: El cura no puede bautizar el bebé antes que los padrinos lleguen.
   8. It’s never over (acabarse) until it’s over! R: Nunca se acaba hasta que se acabe.
   9. I’ll believe it when I see it. R: Lo creeré cuando lo vea.
   10. We are going to learn these facts in case they come up (surgir) in the quiz. R: Aprenderemos estos hechos encaso de que surjan en el examen.
   11. He won’t eat anything unless it has tomato sauce on it. R: Él no come nada a menos que tenga salsa de tomate encima.
   12. Every week I save (ahorrar) £20 so that I will have enough money to go on holiday next summer. R: Cada semana ahorro veinte libras para que tenga suficiente dinero para ir de vacaciones el próximo año.
   13. She’ll never be happy until she learns how to use the subjunctive. R: Ella nunca estará contenta hasta que aprenda/ sepa cómo se usa el subjuntivo.
   14. You should brush your teeth before we leave for the dentist’s this morning. R: Deberías cepillarte los dientes antes que salgamos para el dentista.
   15. I won’t be able to get into (ponerme) these trousers unless I lose 10 pounds (approx. 5 kilos) at least. R: No podré ponerme estos pantalones hasta que pierda 10 libras/5 kilos, por lo menos.
       1. **Ahora, traduce el párrafo siguiente pero elige con cuidado los verbos que se tienen que poner en el subjuntivo.**

“I’ll write as soon as I get there.” These were Marco’s famous last words. What he should

“Escribiré tan pronto como llegue allí”. Estas fueron las famosas últimas palabras de Marco. Lo que debió… have said was, “I’ll write to you unless I’m having a good time,” or “I’ll send you a letter

haber dichó fue, “te escribiré a menos que esté pasando un buen rato”, o “te enviaré una carta…

when there is nothing else to do,” or more simply, “I’ll tell you everything about my trip

cuando no haya nada más que hacer”, o más simplemente, “te diré todo acerca del viaje

when I return home.” The day that I get a letter from Marco will be the day that miracles

cuando esté de regreso a casa”. El día que reciba una carta de Marco será el día que los milagros… happen everywhere! Unless someone puts a gun to his head, Marco will never write a

pasen por doquiera! A menos que alguien le ponga una pistola en la cabeza, Marco nunca escribirá una…

letter to anyone.

carta a nadie.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *last* | último | *to tell* | contar |
| *words* | palabras | *a trip* | un viaje |
| *should have done* | debería haber hecho | *a miracle* | un milagro |
| *to send* | mandar, enviar | *to happen* | ocurrir/suceder/ pasar |
| *simple* | sencillo | *a gun* | una pistola |

1. **Vague or Indefinite Antecedent**

When the person being referred to in the main clause is not actually known to exist, the subjunctive is needed in the subordinate clause.

Note the difference in the following two sentences:

Definite Antecedent

I have a secretary who is efficient - Tengo una secretaria que es eficaz

Indefinite Antecedent

I want a secretary who is efficient - Quiero una secretaria que sea eficaz

**¿Qué significan las frases siguientes?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Él quiere una mujer que gane mucho dinero |  |
| No conozco a nadie que sepa hablar japonés |  |

1. **Traduce las frases siguientes al español**
   1. We are looking for a house that has three bedrooms.
   2. She wants a dog that doesn’t bark (ladrar).
   3. Is there anyone here who can play the guitar?
   4. I need a maid (criada) who washes dishes.
   5. Is there a politician (un político) in the world who doesn’t tell lies?
   6. I want a cat that doesn’t scratch the furniture (los muebles).
   7. Where can I buy a shirt that isn’t made of polyester (poliéster)?
   8. I’m afraid that there is no one here who can help you.
   9. For his birthday this year, he has asked for a parrot (un loro) that speaks three languages.
   10. I want to live in a city where there is no crime.
       1. **Esta vez, traduce el párrafo siguiente.**

I went shopping with Dolores this morning. I will never, ever, put myself through that torture again. Dolores is impossible! First, she wants a parking space that is no less than 10 metres away from the entrance to the shopping centre. That took half an hour to find. Then, she wants a dress that has detachable sleeves so that she can wear it all year round. Next, she wants a necklace that looks like something that a Queen would wear but she also wants it to cost less than £10. She wants shoes that have jewels on the heels and she wants gloves that have little pearls at the wrists. In each shop she told the shop assistant exactly what she wanted each one of them told her that there is no shop in this shopping centre nor in any shopping centre on the planet that sells such items! Carmen was furious and replied that there is no one in the world who understands her fabulous taste.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *to go shopping* | ir de compras | *necklace* | un collar |
| *never, ever* | nunca jamás | *to look like* | parecer |
| *to put yourself through* | someterse a | *queen* | reina |
| *torture* | tortura | *jewels* | joyas |
| *parking space* | un aparcamiento | *heel* | un tacón |
| *to take (time)* | tardar (en) | *pearl* | una perla |
| *sleeve* | una manga | *wrist* | la muñeca |
| *detachable* | de quita y pon | *taste* | gusto |

1. **Perhaps & Maybe – Quizá(s) / tal vez / A lo mejor**

**These words automatically have uncertainty associated with them and usually require the subjunctive.**

Ejemplos:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Quizá él no te conteste. |  |
| Tal vez esté enfermo. |  |
| Quizás ellos no vayan de compras. |  |
| Quizá no la conozcamos. |  |

1. **Traduce las frases siguientes al español.**
   1. Maybe he has the money.
   2. Perhaps we can go.
   3. Maybe they live there.
   4. Perhaps you know him.
   5. Maybe they’ll buy the house today.
   6. Perhaps we are lost!
   7. Maybe he isn’t the smartest person in the world.
   8. Perhaps you shouldn’t drink this milk.
   9. Maybe the politician isn’t telling the truth.
   10. Perhaps the cat only has eight lives.

**Ahora, traduce el párrafo siguiente al español.**

Let’s see. I don’t have to work today. So, what should I do? Maybe I’ll read a book. Maybe I’ll buy a book. Maybe I’ll go to the cinema or maybe I’ll study some more Spanish? Perhaps I’ll fly a kite or perahps I’ll mow the lawn. Maybe I’ll go out for a walk. You know what? I’ve decided what I’m going to do. I’ll do nothing!

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Let’s see* | Vamos a ver | *To mow the lawn* | Cortar el césped |
| *Fly a kite* | Remontar una cometa | *To go for a walk* | Dar un paseo |

1. **‘Aunque’ meaning ‘even if’**

‘Aunque’ can mean ‘even if’, ‘although’ and ‘even though’. When an action has not yet occurred or there is doubt as to whether it will occur or not, ‘aunque’ sets up the need for the subjunctive.

¿Qué significan estas frases abajo?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Aunque él no hable español, le contrataré |  |
| Aunque no ganemos, estaremos felices |  |

1. **Traduce las frases abajo al español.**
   1. Even if Jane cooks, I won’t stay.
   2. Even though they may want to watch television, we won’t let them.
   3. Even if you shout at me, I won’t change my mind (cambiar de idea).
   4. Although he may think he’s a genius (un genio), everyone knows that he isn’t.
   5. Even if you offer the policeman a thousand pounds, he’ll still (todavía) give you a fine (poner una multa).
   6. Although we may be ignorant (ignorar) of the candidates, we still have the right (el derecho) to vote.
   7. Even if you put the cat in the cellar, she will still sneeze (estornudar).
   8. Although you may fell sick, you still have to take the exam.
   9. Even if I know the answer, I won’t tell you.
   10. Although you may think I’m crazy, I know that I’m right.

**Prueba 1**

**Traduce el párrafo siguiente. (Se incluyen todas las siete categorías del subjuntivo aquí).**

Oh no! Someone is at the door. I’m looking through the window and it doesn’t look like anyone that I know. It’s possible that it’s a politician, I suppose but it’s more likely to be a salesperson. Or maybe it’s the postman with a special parcel for me! Maybe it’s someone from the Lottery to wants me to know that I have won £10,000,000. No. It can’t be because they always carry that huge cheque with them. Anyway, whoever it may be, I’m not going to open the door and I hope that they will go away!

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**Prueba Final**

There isn’t anyone who can cook as well as my friend Carolina. It’s great that she’s having a party this weekend because I haven’t eaten a good meal in a long time, that is to say (eso es decir) since the last time I ate at her house. I hope that she makes her famous apple tart (tart de manzana) again, but I doubt that she will make it this weekend, because she made it less than a year ago and it is rare that she repeats herself. Even if she prepares this treat (delicia), it won’t be the same because she always changes the recipe a little and tries to improve it. I fear that I will never taste that same apple tart again! Maybe I’ll beg (suplicar / rogar) her to make it for my birthday! I know that when I taste (saber) that tart again, I will either be in heaven or in Carolina’s dining room!

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