

Verb Mood

Verbs have different moods – Indicative, Interrogative, Imperative, Conditional, and Subjunctive. The moods express the attitude of the speaker and can assist in enhancing the style of the writing.

Indicative Mood

The indicative mood is the most common mood used in writing and is used to make a **declarative statement, expressing a fact or an opinion.**

(Hint... this mood “indicates” a fact/opinion)

Examples:

I screamed loud at the concert.

The cars are valuable.

Interrogative Mood

The interrogative mood is used to **ask a question**, expressing a query.

(Hint... you will always use a question mark)

Examples:

Did you scream at the concert?

Are the cars valuable?

Imperative Mood

The imperative mood is used when making a **command or request**, expressing a directive.

(Hint... often the subject of the sentence is the implied “you”)

Examples:

Scream as loud as you can at the concert.

Show me the valuable car.

Conditional Mood

The conditional mood is used to state an action that **might happen or might exist sometime in the future**, expressing something that has not yet happened.

(Hint... If this, than that; Often uses the words: might, could, or would)

Examples:

If you scream at the concert, you might get noticed by someone important.

If I could, I would buy valuable cars.

Subjunctive Mood

The subjunctive mood is used to **convey a wish, a possibility**, a state of existence contrary to reality, or a hypothetical situation, expressing a statement that is different/opposes what is actually real.

(Hint... often used with the verb: were; the situation may never happen)

Examples:

If I were to scream my loudest, I could severely injure my vocal cords.

I wish I were at a car show that featured valuable cars for sale.

Indicative	I am happy.	The store closes at noon.
Interrogative	Are you happy?	Does the store close at noon?
Imperative	Be happy!	Close the store at noon.
Conditional	If I could, I would be happy.	The store might close at noon.
Subjunctive	I wish I were happy.	If the store were to close, it would close at noon.

Verb Moods

Guided Instruction Verbs can have different **moods**. Each mood has a different function. Three verb moods are **indicative**, **imperative**, and **interrogative**.

■ Indicative

The **indicative mood** expresses a fact or an opinion. It is used to make a declaration.

The astronaut strapped into his seat and prepared for liftoff.

I heard we're going to have nice weather all weekend.

Soccer practice starts promptly at 3 o'clock.

The parking garage closes at midnight.

Danielle decided to take up swimming.

■ Imperative

The **imperative mood** provides a direction. It is used to give a command or make a request. The subject is usually not stated, but is typically understood to be *you*:
(You) Take the dog for a walk.

Buy your ticket before the concert sells out!

Please take your shoes off the new sofa.

Close the window before the rain starts.

Pick up some cat food on your way home.

Don't forget to take the books back to the library.

■ Interrogative

The **interrogative mood** expresses a query and so is used to ask a question. Often, the verb appears before the subject in the sentence.

Can I check out my groceries in this line?

How many presidents were from Virginia?

Did you see the fireworks on the Fourth?

Will you help me finish my chores?

Where can I drop off the clothes I'm donating?

Guided Practice Identify the verb mood in each sentence.

1. Jeremy was afraid of his own shadow. _____
2. Go upstairs and clean your bedroom. _____
3. A Dalmatian dog became the team mascot. _____
4. I left your cookbook on the kitchen counter. _____
5. Did you take that salsa dance class? _____
6. Wipe your boots before coming inside. _____
7. We decided to help our neighbors move in. _____
8. Who is the new student? _____
9. Please play the piece again from the beginning. _____
10. How did you manage to accomplish so much? _____

Independent Practice Rewrite each sentence using a different mood.

1. May I borrow your blue shirt to wear out tonight?

2. I think Mr. Davidson said we're having a test tomorrow.

3. Pick up your little sister from school this afternoon.

4. Go see that new science fiction movie before it leaves the theaters.

5. Will you help me fix dinner for the family?

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Conditional and Subjunctive Moods

Guided Instruction A **verb** is a word that shows an action or a state of being. The **conditional mood** of a verb is used to express an action or a state of being that might happen or might exist in the future if something else happens. To express the conditional mood, use the words *might*, *could*, or *would* with another verb. The **subjunctive mood** of a verb is used to express a wish, a state of existence contrary to reality, or a hypothetical situation. The most commonly used form of the subjunctive is the verb *were*.

■ Conditional Mood

The table might break if you put that heavy box on it.

If you practice more, you could shine as the soloist in the concert.

If my grandparents moved out of state, I would be sad.

■ Subjunctive Mood

She wishes she were at the football game. (expresses a wish)

If I were you, I would wear a jacket. (expresses a state contrary to reality)

If you were to enter the race, you would probably win it. (expresses a hypothetical situation)

Notice that the subjunctive mood often appears in a sentence that has another verb in the conditional mood.

Guided Practice Underline the verb in the conditional or subjunctive mood in each sentence. Then write which mood it is.

1. He might become upset if you use his phone without asking first. _____
2. If she were to change schools, people would miss her. _____
3. I would review all my notes before taking the test if I had more time. _____

Independent Practice Write three original sentences, two using the conditional mood and one using the subjunctive mood of a verb.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Conditional and Subjunctive Moods

Guided Instruction You have already been introduced to the **conditional mood** and the **subjunctive mood**. In this unit, you will learn more about how writers use these moods.

■ Using the Conditional Mood

Writers use the **conditional mood** to express an action or a state of being that *might* happen or *might* exist in the future if something else happens. Sentences in the conditional mood usually include the word *if* along with the words *might*, *could*, *would*, or *should*.

If the paper company changed its policies, customers would benefit.

If Dad decides to come with us, we should change the restaurant reservation.

We might drive to the park if it doesn't rain.

You can also put the conditional into the past tense by adding *have*:

If I had bought a pizza, I would have shared it with you.

■ Using the Subjunctive Mood

Writers use the **subjunctive mood** to express something that is not true, such as a hypothetical situation, a possibility, or an action that has not happened yet.

If the waterpark were closer, I could walk to it.

If I were to visit you, could we go see that new art museum?

The subjunctive can also be used to express commands, demands, wishes, and requests. Sentences that express a command, demand, wish, or request often include the word *that*, as in these examples:

The king commands that the entire court be present to hear his royal decree.

Carol wished that she were a famous movie star in Hollywood.

I demand that you leave my house this instant!

I ask that you be careful crossing the street.

A final use of the subjunctive is to express the idea that something is necessary.

It is important that everyone be present at the meeting.

It's essential that the chairman hear the committee's report.

Guided Practice Rewrite each sentence. Change the underlined verb to the conditional mood or the subjunctive mood, as indicated, and make any other revisions necessary so that the resulting sentence is correct.

1. The car's engine died because you forgot to replace the oil.

conditional mood: _____

2. The president asked his whole staff to be present at the conference.

subjunctive mood: _____

3. Pablo took the class to become a better basketball player.

conditional mood: _____

4. It is necessary to buckle your seat belt.

subjunctive mood: _____

Independent Practice Follow the instructions below to create six original sentences in the conditional mood or the subjunctive mood.

1. conditional _____

2. subjunctive: express a hypothetical situation _____

3. subjunctive: express a command _____

4. subjunctive: express a wish _____

5. subjunctive: express a request _____

6. subjunctive: express a necessity _____

Grammatical Mood Practice

Directions: Beside each sentence, write if the grammatical mood is **INDICATIVE**, **SUBJUNCTIVE**, or **IMPERATIVE**.

- _____ 1. The contract mandates that the publisher respect Kim's copyright.
- _____ 2. Do not miss this episode of NCIS.
- _____ 3. The man is famous for his ability to swallow fire.
- _____ 4. She wishes to leave her own mark on the Olympic Games, just as her great-grand father did.
- _____ 5. It is essential that the list of great movies include Star Wars.
- _____ 6. I wish I were at the beach.
- _____ 7. I would suggest that the boys be promoted.
- _____ 8. Did you see the news report about Russian and Ukraine?
- _____ 9. Please study for your test on Friday.
- _____ 10. If I were famous, I would get tired of the paparazzi.

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Verb Voice and Mood

Guided Instruction A **verb** can be used in the **active voice** or the **passive voice**. In the active voice, the verb shows the sentence's subject performing the action of the verb on the object.

Subject	Verb	Object
<i>The soccer player</i>	<i>kicked</i>	<i>the ball.</i>

In the passive voice, the verb shows the sentence's subject receiving the action of the verb; the action is performed by the sentence's object.

Subject	Verb	Object
<i>The ball</i>	<i>was kicked</i>	<i>by the soccer player.</i>

Generally, the active voice is the preferred voice, and writers should be careful not to shift unnecessarily from the active voice to the passive voice (and vice versa).

A verb can also be used in different **moods**. A mood expresses a state of being. You have learned about the **conditional** and **subjunctive** moods. Three additional moods are the **indicative**, the **imperative**, and the **interrogative**.

- The **indicative mood** expresses a state of fact.
He is my brother. I am giving him my train set.
- The **imperative mood** expresses a state of command.
Listen to your mother. Turn off the lights. Do it now!
- The **interrogative mood** expresses a state of questioning.
Why are we walking this way? Do you know where we're going?

Use the correct form of the verb for the mood needed. Do not shift from one mood to another unnecessarily within a sentence. For example:

Are you going to the computer lab and send me that file.

This sentence shifts from the interrogative mood to the imperative mood and does not make sense to the reader. It should be rewritten as:

Are you going to the computer lab? Send me that file.

Shifts in Verb Mood

Guided Instruction It is also important to avoid shifts in the **mood** of verbs. Verbs in the **indicative mood** state facts or beliefs: *I will pass the test.* Verbs in the **imperative mood** give commands: *Wash the dishes.* Verbs in the **conditional mood** indicate a state, or condition, that will cause something else to happen: *If you practice, you will improve.* Verbs in the **subjunctive mood** indicate something hypothetical, or imagined: *If I were an artist, I'd paint your portrait.*

Indicative: *Emily will fly to Atlanta tomorrow.*

Imperative: *Go get the clothing.*

Conditional: *If I jiggle the switch, the light will come on.*

Subjunctive: *If I were a bird, I would fly above the ground.*

Shift from imperative to indicative (incorrect): *First, start the water; then you should wash the dishes.*

Corrected (all in the imperative): *First, start the water; then wash the dishes.*

Guided Practice One of the sentences in each pair below contains a shift in mood; the other does not. Underline the sentence that contains a shift.

1. a. All students should assemble in the gym, then go to first period.
b. All students should assemble in the gym before first period.
2. a. If you were to trust your instincts, you would listen to your heart.
b. If you were to trust your instincts, you will listen to your heart.
3. a. Stand up, and then you should begin your speech.
b. Stand up and begin your speech.

Independent Practice Correct the sentences below to eliminate the shifts in mood.

1. Take out the jelly, and then you should make your sandwich.

2. I would buy more sunflower seeds if the birds eat what they have now.

3. If you were to do your homework, you will get a good grade.

Guided Practice Rewrite each sentence below to correct the underlined inappropriate shift in verb voice or mood. The correct voice or mood is indicated after each incorrect sentence.

1. Put the dishes away, and then you should sweep the floor. (imperative)

2. If I was you, I would do my homework first. (subjunctive)

3. After Joe closed the door, the light was shut off by him. (active voice)

4. I will go to the store now if I had money. (conditional)

5. Is the sky blue. (indicative)

Independent Practice Write five sentences that contain an inappropriate shift in verb voice or mood. Then switch pages with a partner, and rewrite your partner's sentences to correct the inappropriate shift.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____
