

We use “insisting” verbs and “head” and “heart” verbs all the time in Italian and in English, but they’re used differently in English. First of all, the part after all these verbs is STRUCTURED NORMALLY: ... subject + verb + complement. Second, ...



- after “insisting” verbs, ALWAYS use the SUBJUNCTIVE in *AmE*; it’s like the infinitive without “to” (ex., I suggest that\* he [not] go). *BrE* is a little bit more complicated. They CAN use the SUBJUNCTIVE, and MUST, if the sentence is negative (ex., They demand that he not go there), or if the speaking is directed to the listener (ex., I recommend that you see it), BUT if the sentence is positive, or not directed to the listener, they prefer *should* + infinitive (no “to”), or the present or past indicative tenses, as less formal (ex., I suggest that he should do it.)



- after the “heart” verb WISH and in WISHFUL THINKING PHRASES, use the PAST as the SUBJUNCTIVE (*just like in IF sentences because it’s like saying “If only...”*), ex., I wish that\* I was/were\*\* going. They wished that\* she had done it, first. If only she had seen it, earlier! Oh, that I had gone there on the 14<sup>th</sup>!

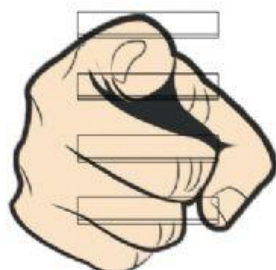


- after other “head” or “heart” verbs, use the INDICATIVE, ex., He’s afraid that\* she does it, daily / ... will do it, daily. / ... has been doing it, daily. / ... could have done it, daily. / ... will be doing it, daily. / ...

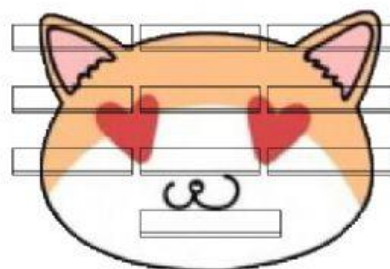
\* here, “that” is *optional*, but I *highly recommend* it as a “warning sign” to pay close attention to what comes next.

\*\* “was” for singular tenses is *British English*; *American English* prefers “were” to distance the situation further from reality.

1. Which verbs are “insisting” verbs [LEFT], & which are “head” or “heart” verbs [RIGHT]? Drag & drop all the verbs, correctly.



|                      |         |        |         |
|----------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| <input type="text"/> | doubt   | hope   | insist  |
| <input type="text"/> | fear    | like   | believe |
| <input type="text"/> | ask     | demand | imagine |
| <input type="text"/> | suspect | guess  | suppose |
|                      |         |        | think   |



2. Now try this! First ask yourself if the verbs are  “insisting” verbs or  “head or “heart” verbs, then choose the right parts to complete these sentences by clicking on the pulldown menus, then clicking on the right answers:

- a. He fears that she... ..
- b. My boss asked that she... ..
- c. I was hoping that he... ..
- d. I recommended that she... ..
- e. We love that she... ..

3. Have you got the difference between  “insisting” verbs and  “head” or “heart” verbs? Click on the right answers:

- a. “think” is ..... an  “insisting” verb / ..... a  “head” or “heart” verb.
- b. “prefer” is ..... an  “insisting” verb / ..... a  “head” or “heart” verb.
- c. “guess” is ..... an  “insisting” verb / ..... a  “head” or “heart” verb.
- d. “suggest” is ..... an  “insisting” verb / ..... a  “head” or “heart” verb.

4. Are there any exceptions? Of course! This is English! “Wish” is a “heart” verb, but it’s like a “wishful thinking” phrase, “If only we had that house [but we don’t]!” – or – “Oh, if only we had done that before you [but we didn’t]!” Look at these two examples then click and drag to draw an arrow to *match* the “wish” sentence halves, correctly ... *Only one of the second halves is right!*

Star wishes that she ...

... go to India, this year.

... had more time for reading.

5. Phrases with the subject "it" + the verb "to be" + an adjective expressing urgency or importance (ex., desirable, important, urgent, essential, ...) are  "insisting," too, and follow the same rules for AmE and for BrE  "insisting" verbs. Click on the menu, and then on  the correct answer:

- a. It is imperative that she ... ..
- b. It was urgent that he ... ..

6. We also have some phrases that have become standardized in the *subjunctive* after many years of use. Tick the right answer:

- |            |               |                 |                 |
|------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| a. God     | ..... bless   | ..... blesses   | the king/queen! |
| b. Heaven  | ..... forbid! | ..... forbids!  |                 |
| c. God     | ..... save    | ..... saves     | the king/queen! |
| d. Long    | ..... live    | ..... lives     | the king/queen! |
| e. So      | ..... be      | ..... is        | it!             |
| f. Be..... | Is.....       | that as it may! |                 |

7. Some  "insisting" and  "head" or "heart" verbs can also be followed by a second verb in the "-ing" form. This is part of a whole other topic called "verb patterns," and each verb or small group of verbs has its own rules, so we'll only look at a few important "insisting," "head" and "heart" examples, right now. Look at the examples, then tick the correct answer:

- a. He suggests going to the doctor, regularly. – They suggest ... .. eating ..... to eat ..... more gelato.
- b. I recommend going to that gym. – We recommend ... .. keeping ..... to keep ..... good books.
- c. We thought writing this would be enough. – She thought ... .. wearing ..... to wear ..... that would be nice.
- d. They suggest that going to the doctor, regularly, is a good idea. – He suggests that ... .. seeing ..... to see ..... it is a good idea

To my sweet students,

SCROLL DOWN to the bottom of the task, where you may now choose to finish the task later (click on LATER, below), or to finish now (click on FINISH, below), and immediately get your score (in the upper left hand corner of your interactive worksheet). N.B., clicking on “finish” also sends me your completed task, automatically. ☺

Thanks! Star

... ..

THIS TASK WAS WRITTEN BY S.K. MEYER FOR HER ESL STUDENTS ON OCT. 18, 2020.

PRINCIPAL REFERENCE: M. SWAN, *PRACTICAL ENGLISH USAGE*, OXFORD, 3<sup>RD</sup> EDITION, 2005

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