

The Subjunctive

formation: (that) + subject  + base form

use: The Subjunctive is a **grammatical mood**. It can be used in a “**that-clause**”(subordinate clause) and is more common in American English. In British English it is considered rather formal. It can be used after certain verbs and expressions to **emphasize urgency or importance**.

verbs + subjunctive:

to advise (that)
to ask (that)
to command (that)
to demand (that)
to desire (that)
to insist (that)
to propose (that)
to recommend (that)
to request (that)
to suggest (that)
to urge (that)

Verbs and expressions
that are followed by
the subjunctive

expressions + subjunctive:

It is best (that)
It is crucial (that)
It is desirable (that)
It is essential (that)
It is imperative (that)
It is important (that)
It is recommended (that)
It is urgent (that)
It is vital (that)
It is a good idea (that)
It is a bad idea (that)

examples:

I **recommend** that you **be** on time for the meeting.
She **proposed** that we **come** early tomorrow.
I **suggest** that he **leave** right now.
It is **necessary** that you **hand** in your assignment tomorrow.
It is **important** that she **arrive** soon.

Negative forms in subjunctive

formation: (that) + subject  + not base form

examples:

The boss **demand**ed that Mr. Smith **not be** at the meeting.
The company **request**ed that employees **not accept** personal phone calls in the office.
I **suggest** that you **not call** the manager right now.

Passive and Continuous forms in Subjunctive

examples:

Mr. Brown **insist**ed that Ms. Roberts **be hired** immediately. (passive)
The chief executive officer **request**ed that all invitations **be sent** today. (passive)
It is **important** that you **be meeting** the boss right away. (continuous)
It is **vital** that a bodyguard **be accompanying** the President at all times. (continuous)

Practice time!

A) Choose the correct option.



1. It's important that Jane her medicine twice a day.
a) took b) take
c) takes d) will take
2. They suggested that we.....the instructions carefully before putting together the bookcase.
a) read b) will read
c) not read d) be read
3. The manager demanded that the accountant the figures again.
a) be added up b) will add up
c) add up d) adds up
4. They proposed that you an advertising company as soon as possible.
a) be set up b) setting up
c) sets up d) set up
5. It's vital that our company all the faulty products immediately.
a) replaces b) replace
c) replacing d) be replaced
6. The Board of Directors proposed that the two companies.....
a) merged b) merge
c) be merged d) be merging
7. The CEO requested that Ms. Jones
a) resigned b) be resigning
c) resign d) resigns
8. It's urgent that the secretary the memos to all the associates right now.
a) send b) be sent
c) be sending d) not send
9. The chief accountant insisted they the problem at once.
a) solve b) be solved
c) will solve d) solving
10. It's imperative they a new advertising campaign if they want to increase their sales.
a) launched b) had launched
c) will launch d) launch
11. Many international corporations believe it is crucial that they in developing countries.
a) invested b) invest
c) would have invested d) had invested
12. The Board of Directors asked that Mr. Clark redundant.
a) be made b) be making
c) will be made d) had made
13. It is necessary the situation handled right away.
a) is b) will be
c) be d) would be
14. It is a good idea that the new president his duties as soon as possible.
a) took on b) takes on
c) be taken on d) take on
15. It is advisable that you all the computers before leaving the office.
a) turning off b) will turn off
c) would turn off d) turn off
16. I suggest that he immediately.
a) apologize b) apologized
c) had apologize d) will apologize
17. It is essential that she determined to excel if she wants to climb up the ladder.
a) will be b) would be
c) be d) were

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18. The company urges that the employees initiative.
a) showed b) show
c) be showed d) showing
19. The organizers requested that all participants the forms.
a) fill in b) filling in
c) to fill in d) will fill in
20. It is recommended that the prices of our products
a) not rise b) not rising
c) don't rise d) won't rise
21. The President desires that the corporate merger right away.
a) be taking place b) took place
c) will take place d) have taken place
22. The customer demanded that the shipment in two days.
a) dispatch b) be dispatched
c) dispatching d) will dispatch

B) Rewrite the following sentences in the Subjunctive.



1. The Board of Directors said that the chief executive officer (CEO) should resign.
The Board of Directors insisted.....
2. The chairman decided to put off the meeting until Wednesday.
The chairman demanded
3. I want her to apologize for lying to me.
I request.....
4. Jill thinks differently from you. Always remember that!
It is important that you always.....
5. It's very late. I think we should all go home now.
It's very late. I think it is advisable
6. The doctor said that Simon must reduce the daily amount of sugar intake.
The doctor said that it is essential
7. You mustn't swim after eating a large meal.
It is vital
8. You must be waiting for me on platform 9 at 7:00 sharp.
I desire
9. The boss said that Mr. Stevens must take part in the negotiations.
The boss demanded
10. They think she should be admitted in the organization.
They propose.....

C) Complete with the correct form of the verb in brackets. (Subjunctive)

1. Her employer demanded that she _____ immediately. (apologize)
2. It is important that everything _____ of by Monday. (take care)
3. They suggested that Mrs. Newton _____ an attorney before signing the contract. (consult)
4. It is essential that the meeting _____, (reschedule)
5. The Board of Directors desires that Mr. Henderson _____, (hire)
6. He recommended that we _____ at the lobby at 8:00 p.m. (meet)
7. The coach desires that the team _____ more often. (practice)
8. The chairman insisted that more money _____ on advertising. (spend)
9. They demanded that the president _____ something about the situation. (do)
10. Our teacher said it is imperative that each one of us _____ an effort. (make)
11. It is essential that you _____ present at the conference. (be)
12. The manager insisted that the car park _____ at night. (lock)
13. The Board of Directors recommended that he _____ the company soon. (join)
14. It is advisable that he _____ to work early on his first day. (come)