

- *I'd prefer* can be used in the same way, but note that *prefer* in this type of sentence has an object *it*.

I'd prefer it if you didn't go.

However, *I'd prefer* is not followed by an unreal verb form in other situations.

I'd prefer tea to coffee.

I'd prefer you to go swimming (rather than go jogging).

As if, as though

Real and unreal

The verb form here depends on whether the situation is true or unreal.

You look as if you're having second thoughts. (**True**. He is having second thoughts.)

He acts as if he were in charge. (**Unreal**. He isn't in charge.)

I feel as if an express train had hit me. (**It didn't** hit me.) Note however, that the more colloquial *like* does not require this verb form change. Compare:

You look like you've just seen a ghost

You look as if you'd just seen a ghost.

Suppose and imagine

Understood conditions

The conditional part of these sentences is often understood but not stated.

Imagine we won the pools!

Suppose someone told you that I was a spy!

Imagine we'd never met! (we have met)

As with conditional sentences, if the event referred to is a real possibility, rather than imaginary, a present verb form is possible:

Suppose it starts raining, what'll we do?

Formal Subjunctives

- Insisting, demanding etc

After verbs such as *demand*, *insist*, *suggest*, *require* which involve an implied obligation, the subjunctive may be used in formal style. This has only one form, that of the infinitive, and there is no third person -S, or past form. The verb *be* has *be* for all forms.

They demanded that he leave at once.

The school Principal suggested that he be awarded a scholarship.

- Less formal usage

Less formally, *should* can be used, and colloquially no verb form change is made, or an infinitive construction is used.

They demanded that he should leave.

They demanded that he left, (informal)

Formulaic Subjunctives

These are fixed expressions all using subjunctive. Typical expressions are:

Thy will be done.

God save the Queen!

Be that as it may, ...

Come what may, ...

(God) bless you.

So be it.

As luck would have it.

If this be error, and upon me proved
(Shakespeare)

There are many more of these expressions. I will ask you to give me at least one formulaic subjunctive expression on your test. If you give me more than one, and they are correct, you can earn 1 or 2 positive point on your test. The highlighted expressions are common in the business world.