



Subjunctive 2

Grammar > Advanced 8



Exercise 1 – Learning

Why do we use the Subjunctive?

We use subjunctive verbs in **recommendations** and **hypothetical situations**.

This lesson will focus on **forming hypothetical situations**.

If

When you use '**if**' to talk about something that is not factual, put the verb in the subjunctive mood.

Note that the following sentences use **the past subjunctive form** of the verb '**be**' instead of the standard past tense ('**I was, he was**').

If I were you, I would tell her the truth. (*Fact: I am not you.*)

What would happen **if he were** elected president? (*Fact: He was not elected.*)



As If

Use '**as if**' with **linking verbs** like '**look**', '**feel**', and '**seem**', to describe some state using some other state that is not true. The structure is:

as if + [subject] + [subjunctive verb]

He looks **as if** he were 70 years old.

Some native speakers say '**as though**' instead of '**as if**'.

After I won the race, I felt **as though I were** dreaming.

We can also use '**as if/though**' to describe actions using some state:

She acts **as if she were** the boss.

They yelled **as though they were** in danger.

In everyday speech, it is becoming more acceptable to **not** use the subjunctive mood. For example, some native speakers say "**If I was you**, I would tell her the truth."



Exercise 2 – Fill in the Blanks

Fill in the blanks with 'as if' or 'if'.

1. They spoke in a low voice _____ they were hiding from someone.
2. It looks _____ you can't remember anything.
3. Don't just act _____ you're listening.
4. What would you do _____ you quit your job?
5. She looks _____ she heard some bad news.
6. She moved her lips _____ she wanted to spit something out.
7. Imagine how arrogant he would be _____ he were actually the boss.
8. John always acts _____ he were the boss.



Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

Use 'act as if' to create sentences with your tutor.

Example: headache → Act as if you had a headache.

Content:

1. milk
2. airplane
3. horse
4. drum
5. lion
6. bee