



Tutorial

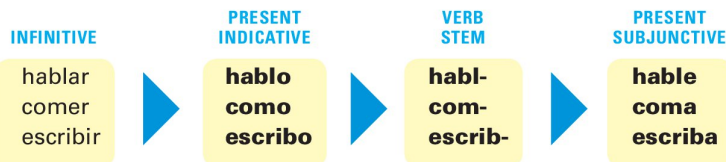
### 3.3 The present subjunctive

#### ANTE TODO

With the exception of commands, all the verb forms you have been using have been in the indicative mood. The indicative is used to state facts and to express actions or states that the speaker considers to be real and definite. In contrast, the subjunctive mood expresses the speaker's attitude toward events, as well as actions or states the speaker views as uncertain or hypothetical.



- The present subjunctive is formed very much like **usted** commands, **ustedes** commands, and *negative* **tú** commands. From the **yo** form of the present indicative, drop the **-o** ending, and replace it with the subjunctive endings.



- The present subjunctive endings are:

#### -ar verbs

-e	-emos
-es	-éis
-e	-en

#### -er and -ir verbs

-a	-amos
-as	-áis
-a	-an

#### Present subjunctive of regular verbs

		hablar	comer	escribir
SINGULAR FORMS	yo	hable	coma	escriba
	tú	hables	comas	escribas
	Ud./él/ella	hable	coma	escriba
PLURAL FORMS	nosotros/as	hablemos	comamos	escribamos
	vosotros/as	habléis	comáis	escribáis
	Uds./ellos/ellas	hablen	coman	escriban

#### AYUDA

Note that, in the present subjunctive, **-ar** verbs use endings normally associated with present tense **-er** and **-ir** verbs. Likewise, **-er** and **-ir** verbs in the present subjunctive use endings normally associated with **-ar** verbs in the present tense. Note also that, in the present subjunctive, the **yo** form is the same as the **Ud./él/ella** form.

#### ¡LENGUA VIVA!

You may think that English has no subjunctive, but it does! While once common, it now survives mostly in set expressions such as *If I were you...* and *Be that as it may...*

- Verbs with irregular **yo** forms show the same irregularity in all forms of the present subjunctive.

Infinitive	Present indicative	Verb stem	Present subjunctive
conducir	conduzco	<b>conduzc-</b>	<b>conduzca</b>
conocer	conozco	<b>conozc-</b>	<b>conozca</b>
decir	digo	<b>dig-</b>	<b>diga</b>
hacer	hago	<b>hag-</b>	<b>haga</b>
ofrecer	ofrezco	<b>ofrezc-</b>	<b>ofrezca</b>
oír	oigo	<b>oig-</b>	<b>oiga</b>
parecer	parezco	<b>parezc-</b>	<b>parezca</b>
poner	pongo	<b>pong-</b>	<b>ponga</b>
tener	tengo	<b>teng-</b>	<b>tenga</b>
traducir	traduzco	<b>traduzc-</b>	<b>traduzca</b>
traer	traigo	<b>traig-</b>	<b>traiga</b>
venir	vengo	<b>veng-</b>	<b>venga</b>
ver	veo	<b>ve-</b>	<b>vea</b>

- To maintain the **c**, **g**, and **z** sounds, verbs ending in **-car**, **-gar**, and **-zar** have a spelling change in all forms of the present subjunctive.

**sacar:** saque, saques, saque, saquemos, saquéis, saquen  
**jugar:** juegue, juegues, juegue, juguemos, juguéis, jueguen  
**almorzar:** almuerce, almuerces, almuerce, almorcemos, almorcéis, almuercen

## Present subjunctive of stem-changing verbs

- **-Ar** and **-er** stem-changing verbs have the same stem changes in the subjunctive as they do in the present indicative.

**pensar (e:ie):** piense, pienses, piense, pensemos, penséis, piensen  
**mostrar (o:ue):** muestre, muestres, muestre, mostremos, mostréis, muestren  
**entender (e:ie):** entienda, entiendas, entienda, entendamos, entendáis, entiendan  
**volver (o:ue):** vuelva, vuelvas, vuelva, volvamos, volváis, vuelvan

- **-Ir** stem-changing verbs have the same stem changes in the subjunctive as they do in the present indicative, but in addition, the **nosotros/as** and **vosotros/as** forms undergo a stem change. The unstressed **e** changes to **i**, while the unstressed **o** changes to **u**.

**pedir (e:i):** pida, pidas, pida, pidamos, pidáis, pidan  
**sentir (e:ie):** sienta, sientas, sienta, sintamos, sintáis, sientan  
**dormir (o:ue):** duerma, duermas, duerma, durmamos, durmáis, duerman

### AYUDA

Note that stem-changing verbs and verbs that have a spelling change have the same ending as regular verbs in the present subjunctive.