

Lesson 17

PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE

VOCABULARY

lástima (<i>fem.</i>)	pity	importante	important
nota (<i>fem</i>)	grade (<i>school</i>)	imposible	impossible
creer	believe	precio	necessary
desear	desire, wish, want	probable	probable
dudar	doubt	a menos que	unless
esparar	hope	de modo que	so that
mandar	hope; expect; wait for	antes (de) que	before
pensar (ie)	think; intend, plan	después (de) que	after
sacar	take out, get	hasta que	until
sentir (ie -i)	feel; be sorry	para que	in order that
temer	fear	más	more
		menos	less

Creo que sí (Creo que no.)

I think so. (I don't think so)

Es lástima

It's too bad. What a shame!

Lo siento mucho. (Siento mucho)

I am very sorry.

I. SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD. The subjunctive mood is used far more frequently in Spanish than English. Whenever any doubt of uncertainty exists in the mind of the speaker or writer as to the absolute truth or future fulfillment of his statement, the Spaniard must use the subjunctive mood. Before the following explanations are studied, let the teacher discuss with the class the element of doubt or uncertainty expressed in these sentences:

It is necessary **that he arrive today.**

I shall wait here **until they come.**

It is probably **that he doesn't know about it.**

We fear **that he will lose it.**

My mother believes **that he has it.**

We shall return it **before they ask for it.**

II. PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE ENDINGS.

First conjugation (ar)

Second (er) and Third (ir) Conjugations

<i>hablar</i>		<i>comer</i>		<i>escribir</i>	
hable	hablemos	coma	comamos	escriba	escribamos
hables	habléis	comas	comáis	escribas	escribáis
hable	hablen	coma	coman	escriba	escriban

Radical-changing (stem-changing) verbs of the first (ar) and second (er) conjugations undergo the same stem changes in the present subjunctive as in the present indicative.

Radical-changing verbs of the third conjugation (ir) present some irregularities in the present subjunctive. Consult the irregular verb section in the back of the book.

<i>cerrar</i>	<i>perder</i>	<i>dormir</i>	<i>sentir</i>	<i>pedir</i>
cierre	pierda	duerma	sienta	pida
cierres	pierdas	duermas	sientas	pidas
cierre	pierda	duerma	sienta	pida
cerremos	perdamos	durmamos	sintamos	pidamos
cerréis	perdáis	durmáis	sintáis	pidáis
cierren	pierdan	duerman	sientan	pidan

III. SUBJUNCTIVE USAGE. A study of the following rules on the use of the subjunctive will show that they all have as their basis the idea of doubt, or uncertainty as to fulfillment. Use the subjunctive:

(a) In dependent clauses following these impersonal phrases:

Es importante que	Es necesario que
Es posible que	Es preciso que
Es imposible que	Es probable que

Es posible que no lo comprendan. *It is possible that they do not understand it.*
 Es preciso que lo estudien. *It is necessary that they study it.*

(b) In temporal (time) clauses that refer to future time, introduced by:

cuando	<i>when</i>	antes (de) que	<i>before</i>	mientras (que)	<i>while</i>
hasta que	<i>until</i>	después (de) que	<i>after</i>		

Voy a estudiarlo **hasta que** llegen. *I am going to study it **till** they arrive.*
 Tenemos mucho que hacer **antes de que** lo compremos.
*We have a lot to do **before** we buy it.*

(c) In clauses introduced by conjunctions denoting **purpose** (so that), **result** (with the result that), or **concession** (although):

para que	<i>in order that</i>	aunque (<i>also with indicative</i>)	<i>although</i>
de modo que	<i>so that</i>	a menos que	<i>unless</i>

(d) In clauses introduced by **creer** (*to believe*) and **pensar** (*to think*) used negatively.

No creo que ella le comprenden. *I do not think that she understands.*

(e) In relative clauses introduced by an indefinite antecedent.

Buscamos un hombre que hable español.
We are looking for a man who speaks Spanish.

(f) In clauses introduced by verbs of commanding, requesting, doubting, fearing, hoping, wishing, etc., where the chance of fulfillment is always in **doubt**.

He commands (Manda) that ...
He requests (Pide) that ...
He doubts (Duda) that ...
He fears (Teme) that ...
He hopes (Espera) that ...
He wishes (Desea: quiere) that..., etc.

(g) In clauses introduced by verbs expressing **emotion**.

I am sorry (**Siento mucho**) that ...
I am glad (**Me alegro**) that ...
It is too bad (**Es lástima**) that ...

(h) He wants to buy it. Quiere comprarlo.
He wants me to buy it. Desea que yo lo compre.

In the first sentence, where only one person is concerned, the complementary infinitivo is used; in the second, where two persons are concerned, a dependent subjunctive used.

IV. ORTHOGRAPHIC CHANGES. The orthographic changes in the present subjunctive of verbs ending in **-car** and **-gar** are necessary in order to preserve the original **c** and **g** in the infinitive.

	<i>Sacar</i>					
Present Indicative:	saco	sacas	saca	sacamos	sacáis	scan
Present Subjunctive:	saque	saques	saque	saquemos	saquéis	saquen

	<i>jugar</i>					
Present Indicative:	juego	juegas	juega	jugamos	jugáis	juegan
Present Subjunctive:	juegue	juegues	juegue	juguemos	juguéis	jueguen

V. Pensar.

(a) **pensar en** = think of

Pienso in ti siempre. *I think about you always.*

(b) **pensar** + infinitive = *Intend.*

Pensé leer todos los libros. *I intend (plan) to read all the books.*

EXERCISES

HAY QUE SACAR BUENAS NOTAS (Conversación entre Juan y Roberto)

- ¡Buenos días, Juan! ¿Qué tal?
- No me va muy bien. Aunque quiero aprender el español bien, y lo estudio mucho, mis padres no creen. La mayor parte de la clase saca buenas notas, pero yo no puedo.
- ¡Qué lástima! Mis padres también dudan que yo trabaje bastante. Dicen que es importante y preciso que **estudie** más y **juegue** menos.
- Temo, Roberto, que nuestros padres no **comprendan** que es imposible que todo el mundo **saque** buenas notas. Lo siento mucho, pero esperan demasiado.
- Ud. tiene razón, Juan. Es lástima que no **podamos** explicárselo a ellos de modo que no **esperen** demasiado de nosotros. ¿Por qué es necesario aprender toda la gramática española? El español no me es útil, a menos que **piense** viajar en España, o en la América del Sur, o en México.
- Ud. no tiene razón, Roberto.
- ¿Por qué no? Yo creo que sí.
- No, mi amigo, sus padres, no Ud., tienen razón. Saben que **jugamos** mucho. Saben bien lo que es importante y necesario. Tienen razón, cuando mandan que **trabajemos** más, y cuando desean que **saquemos** buenas notas ¿No es verdad?
- Es posible. Todo es posible. Voy a comprar dos diccionarios españoles y voy a estudiarlos hasta que **aprenda** cada palabra en ellos. **Pienso** aprender todas las reglas de gramática y de pronunciación, y todo el vocabulario también. Muchas gracias, Juan.
- No hay de qué, Roberto ¡Adiós!
- ¡Hasta la vista, Juan!

B. *Translate into Spanish.* 1. He wants us to learn them. 2. He couldn't explain the rule to the class. 3. Why does your father order you to sell them? 4. I am going to read until your friends arrive. 5. It is cold today. 6. It was warm today. 7. It is going to be warm tomorrow. 8. I am in a hurry and must go down town. 9. Are you going shopping today? 10. I intend to buy a hat and a pair of (**unos**) shoes. 11. It is possible that he doesn't sell shoes. 12. He doesn't think that we learn our lessons well. 13. It is necessary (**Hay que**) to study them every day. 14. What a pity that it is raining again! 15. I don't relieve it. 16. There are some men in Spain who do not speak Spanish. 17. I don't like his music. 18. I am sorry that you don't like his music. 19. You can't understand music unless you study it. 20. We intend to drink more coffee and eat less bread. 21. Till I see you again. 22. He requires that we wait for him.

C. *10-minute quiz; 5% for each correct answer.*

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|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. I am in a hurry. | 11. ¿Qué quiere decir la frase? |
| 2. The sun is shining. | 12. No sé. |
| 3. We are sleepy. | 13. la riqueza de Inglaterra |
| 4. Are you thirsty? | 14. Va a nevar. |
| 5. People have to work. | 15. Lo siento mucho. |
| 6. I am going shopping. | 16. más o menos |
| 7. a shoe store | 17. un gran zapato |
| 8. Is it possible. | 18. ¿Qué buscaba Ud.? |
| 9. It was cold. | 19. Era muy barato. |
| 10. It was raining. | 20. ¡Hasta luego! |

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