

## Verb Moods

Mood is the attitude a verb conveys in a sentence. Changing the verb's mood will change the tone of the sentence. Verb moods indicate a state of being or reality.

5 moods

- **Indicative:** expresses an assertion, facts, or opinions; the “normal” verb form.
- **Imperative:** expresses command, prohibition, entreaty or advice. This mood is used to give orders or make requests. Often the subject is implied rather than stated.
- **Interrogative:** expresses a state of questioning. You will often notice inversion in the order of subject and verb.
- **Conditional:** indicates a conditional state that will cause something else to happen. Often uses the words might, could, or would.
- **Subjunctive:** expresses doubt or something contrary to fact. Something is not factual, but probable, unlikely, hoped for, or feared. These are the clauses that often start with “If,” “I wish that,” “I hope that,” or “I desire that.” In the indicative, we would say “I was,” but in the hypothetical subjunctive, we would use the verb form “were.” Keep in mind that not all clauses that begin with “If” are contrary to fact.

Indicative	She is happy.
Imperative	Smile! (Note: The subject “you” is implied rather than stated.)
Interrogative	Is she happy? (Note: The subject follows the verb.)
Conditional	She could be happy.
Subjunctive	If she won the lottery, she would be happy. (Note: the 2 <sup>nd</sup> clause is conditional)

**Overview:**

The indicative mood makes a statement or asks a question. The imperative mood expresses commands or requests. The subjunctive mood represents an act or state of being as a contingency or possibility.

- **Indicative mood and Interrogative mood:** The indicative mood is used to make a statement, while the interrogative mood is used to ask a question. Almost all of the verbs you use in speaking or writing are in one of these two moods.
- **Imperative mood:** The imperative mood is used to express commands or requests. Even when please is added, the verb is still imperative.  
*Please take this book to the media center. Sit up straight.*

**NOTE: The indicative, interrogative, and imperative moods do not change the forms of the verb, but the subjunctive mood does change the verb form.**

- **Subjunctive mood:** The subjunctive mood does not state a fact, but represents an act or state of being as a contingency or possibility. *Uses of the Subjunctive Mood:*
  1. It expresses a demand, recommendation, suggestion, wish, hope, or necessity.  
*Examples:*
    - Demand: The teacher demanded that Joe report to the principal's office immediately.
    - Recommendation or Suggestion: I suggest that she take Spanish next semester.
    - Necessity: It is necessary that Tom be home by dark.
    - Wish or hope: God bless you!
    - "If this be treason!" said Patrick Henry (not stating that it is treason)
  2. It states a condition or wish that is contrary to fact.  
*Examples:*
    - "If this be treason!" said Patrick Henry (not stating that it is treason)
    - Condition that is contrary to fact: If Sarah were the principal, things might be a lot better.
    - Wish that is contrary to fact: I wish I were a genius.