

## THE SUBJUNCTIVE: AN OVERVIEW

Subjunctive sentence structure: Sentences with subjunctive have two clauses: an **independent clause** and a **dependent clause**, introduced by **que**.

/---Independent---/	/-----Dependent-----/
Yo recomiendo	que ella escriba la carta inmediatamente.
<i>I recommend</i>	<i>that she write the letter immediately.</i>

The verb in the dependent clause will be in the subjunctive if certain conditions are met.

Conditions for the use of subjunctive in Spanish:

1. The two clauses must have **different subjects**: (Yo) quiero que **ellos** estén contentos.  
*I want them to be happy.*

If there is no change in subject, you will use an **infinitive**: Quiero **estar** contenta.  
*I want to be happy.*

2. The verb in the **independent clause** must be in the **indicative** and express **willing/wish, emotion, request, doubt, or denial**. If that is not the case, the verb in the dependent clause must be in the indicative (even if the two clauses have different subjects).

Quiero que ellos <b>estén</b> contentos.	BUT	Sé que ellos <b>están</b> contentos.
Deseo que Guillermo me <b>bese</b> .	BUT	Es <b>cierto</b> que él me <b>besa</b> mucho.
Es horrible que haya cucarachas en casa.	BUT	Creo que <b>hay</b> muchas allí.

3. Generalizations that express willing/wish, emotion, request, doubt, or denial are followed by an infinitive. When one of these generalizations is personalized (made to refer to a specific person), it is followed by the subjunctive in the dependent clause.

Es necesario <b>matar</b> las cucarachas.	BUT	Es necesario <b>que Guillermo las mate</b> .
Es terrible <b>tener</b> cucarachas en casa.	BUT	Es terrible <b>que yo las tenga</b> en casa.

### WEIRDO

**WISH & WILLING**: desear, preferir, querer, necesitar, esperar

**EMOTION**: esperar, gustar, sentir, temer, tener miedo de, sentir

**IMPERSONAL**: es necesario, es terrible, es mejor, es peor, es bueno, es posible, es probable

**REQUEST & RECOMMENDATION**: pedir, recomendar, decir, mandar, sugerir

**DOUBT & DENIAL**: no creer, dudar, no estar seguro/a de, no pensar

**OJALÁ**