Verb moods are classifications that indicate the attitude of the speaker. Verbs have five moods—indicative, interrogative, imperative, subjunctive, and conditional.

**Indicative mood** is used to express facts/opinions
   Ex. I want to see a movie this weekend.

**Imperative mood** is used to make requests or give commands
   Ex. Do not talk during the movie!

**Interrogative mood** is used to ask questions
   Ex. Do you know when the movie starts?

**Subjunctive mood** is used to express unreal/imaginary/hypothetical conditions, importance, urgency, wishes, or desire. The subjunctive is usually found in complex sentences.

**Subjunctive Rule 1**
The subjunctive is generally used with “If” to express a wish, a want, or desire.

**Examples:**
1. Oh, if that were only true!
2. If only I had a million dollars!

Notice, this is JUST a wish. **It is not showing cause and effect.**

**Subjunctive Rule 2**
The subjunctive is usually used with “that” when expressing importance, wishes, or urgency.

**Examples:**
1. It is urgent that you take cover during a tornado.
2. I wish that I were in Paris!
3. I suggest that you stop talking.
4. It is important that you study.

**Subjunctive Rule 3**
Remember that the word “that” can be implied (or invisible).
- Our teacher insists we do our homework.

This sentence is really the same as:
- Our teacher insists **that** we do our homework.

**Examples**
1. It is urgent we evacuate during a fire.
2. I suggest you study for the test.

*Conditional Mood—Will not be counted on the test.*
- Conditional mood is a form of subjunctive which is created with *could* or *would.*
- Conditional expresses under which conditions something will happen. It usually uses **“IF” with cause and effect.**

**Examples:**
1. If you were generous, you **would** donate money to charity.
2. If Alabama were tropical, we **could** grow pineapples in our yards!
Remember

• Subjunctive can use “if” to express wishes; wants; desires
• Conditional uses “if” for cause and effect.

  **Subjunctive:** If only it were summertime!
  **Conditional:** If it were summertime, we could go swimming.

### Special Rule  Don’t mix Indicative and Conditional

| “IF” does NOT go with “WAS” | CORRECT: If I were a butterfly, I would fly. |
| “IF” goes with “WERE”       | INCORRECT: If I was a butterfly, I would fly. |

*“Was” is only for past tense!*

You may say: When I was a butterfly, I flew.

### Inappropriate Shifts in Mood

Remember, the mood must match throughout the entire sentence.

**Example:** If I was rich, I would buy a ranch far away from everybody.

This sentence starts out indicative and shifts to conditional. It should remain the same throughout.

  **Making each side conditional:** If I were rich, I would buy a ranch far away from everybody.
  **Making each side indicative:** I was finally rich, so I bought a ranch far away from everyone.

### Choose the correct verb.

1. If I was/were you, I would study for the test. ________________
2. I was/were finally 16, so I bought a car. ________________
3. My sister would cry if you was/were to take away her toys. ________________

### Review Exercises

**Subjunctive, Conditional, Indicative, Imperative, Interrogative**

**Label the following sentences with the appropriate mood.**

1. It is important that puppies get enough exercise. ________________
2. Do you walk your puppy enough? ________________
3. A puppy needs at least 30 minutes of daily exercise. ________________
4. If a puppy were not exercised properly, it would likely chew up its owner’s possessions. ________________
5. Remember to walk your puppy each day. ________________
6. If I were rich, I would have a lake house. ________________
7. Stop talking. ________________
8. I suggest that you remember your notebook. ________________
9. Will you cover your mouth when you sneeze? ________________
10. I want to go to the movies this weekend. ________________