

Varied Fluency

Step 2: Subjunctive Form in Formal Speech and Writing

National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 6: (6G7.4) [Recognising vocabulary and structures that are appropriate for formal speech and writing, including subjunctive forms](#)

English Year 6: (6G7.2) [The difference between vocabulary typical of informal speech and vocabulary appropriate for formal speech and writing \[for example, find out – discover; ask for – request; go in – enter\]](#)

English Year 6: (6G7.3) [The difference between structures typical of informal speech and structures appropriate for formal speech and writing \[for example, the use of question tags: *He's your friend, isn't he?*, or the use of subjunctive forms such as *If I were* or *Were they to come* in some very formal writing and speech\]](#)

Differentiation:

Developing Questions to support using the subjunctive form of 'to be' to express statements contrary to fact or to express wishes. Predominantly Y3/Y4 spelling list.

Expected Questions to support using the subjunctive form of 'to be' and a variety of verbs that follow expressions of desire, demands or formal recommendations. Predominantly Y5/Y6 spelling list.

Greater Depth Questions to support using the subjunctive form of 'to be' and a variety of verbs that follow expressions of desire, demands or formal recommendations. Archaic language used.

[More resources](#) from our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling scheme of work.

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Subjunctive Form in Formal Speech and Writing

1a. Tick the box next to the sentence that is written in the subjunctive form.

A. If I was rich, I would live in a castle next to the sea.

B. If I were rich, I would live in a castle next to the sea.

C. When I become rich, I will live in a castle next to the sea.



VF

Subjunctive Form in Formal Speech and Writing

1b. Tick the box next to the sentence that is written in the subjunctive form.

A. I wish I was older, so I could travel the world.

B. When I am older, I'm going to travel the world.

C. I wish I were older, so I could travel the world.



VF

2a. Underline the subjunctive verb in the sentence below.

"I wish that she were still here with me," said the old man sadly.



VF

2b. Underline the subjunctive verb in the sentence below.

"If I were in charge, I would give you the job," said the assistant manager.



VF

3a. Choose a verb from below to complete this sentence in the subjunctive form.

If I _____ coming to the party, I would wear my sparkly new dress.

am	was	were
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VF

3b. Choose a verb from below to complete this sentence in the subjunctive form.

If he _____ here, he would make sure that we were having a good time.

is	were	comes
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VF

4a. True or false? The sentence below is written in the subjunctive form.

"If he were my teacher, I'd enjoy coming to school every day," said the boy.



VF

4b. True or false? The sentence below is written in the subjunctive form.

"If I was the queen, I'd make sure that everybody had enough food," said the girl.



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Subjunctive Form in Formal Speech and Writing

Subjunctive Form in Formal Speech and Writing

5a. Tick the box next to the sentence that is written in the subjunctive form.

A. It was suggested that he wait until the next morning.

B. She told him to wait until the next morning.

C. She said that he should wait until the next morning.



VF

5b. Tick the box next to the sentence that is written in the subjunctive form.

A. The teacher ordered her to write a letter of apology.

B. The teacher told her to write a letter of apology.

C. The teacher demanded she write a letter of apology.



VF

6a. Underline the subjunctive verb in the sentence below.

"I insist that he apologise immediately," demanded the politician.



VF

6b. Underline the subjunctive verb in the sentence below.

"It is vital that he arrive on time for the meeting," advised the social worker.



VF

7a. Choose a verb from below to complete this sentence in the subjunctive form.

"Is it really necessary that she _____ such long hours?" asked the concerned teacher.

works	work	does
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VF

7b. Choose a verb from below to complete this sentence in the subjunctive form.

"I suggest that she _____ a warm coat with her," said the centre manager.

take	takes	has
------	-------	-----



VF

8a. True or false? The sentence below is written in the subjunctive form.

"I ask that you are truthful with me," demanded the teacher, as she stood in front of the guilty child.



VF

8b. True or false? The sentence below is written in the subjunctive form.

"It is essential that he be here on time," said the teacher to the parent.



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Subjunctive Form in Formal Speech and Writing

9a. Tick the box next to the sentence that is written in the subjunctive form.

A. This decrepit model is obsolete; I suggest she buys a new one.

B. This decrepit model is obsolete; I suggest she purchase a new one.

C. This decrepit model is obsolete; I'm suggesting she gets a new one.



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Subjunctive Form in Formal Speech and Writing

9b. Tick the box next to the sentence that is written in the subjunctive form.

Alack, I'm anxious that the paltry rations she is allowed isn't enough.

Alack, I worry that the measly rations she's allowed will not suit.

Alack, I fear that the paltry rations she be permitted will not suffice.



VF

10a. Underline the subjunctive verb in the sentence below.

Due to unforeseen problems, I propose he make changes to the initial design in order to pacify the disgruntled client.



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10b. Underline the subjunctive verb in the sentence below.

I believe, perchance, that if he use the time wisely, the project can still come to a satisfactory conclusion.



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11a. Choose a verb from below to complete this sentence in the subjunctive form.

The spirited old woman, from a bygone era, insisted that she _____ an opportunity to compose and send an email.

has	got	have
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11b. Choose a verb from below to complete this sentence in the subjunctive form.

Verily, although I am her direct superior, I wholeheartedly recommend that she _____ for a more senior position within the company.

applies	apply	applied
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12a. True or false? The sentence below is written in the subjunctive form.

"I urge that he appear in court if he wishes to submit a statement in defence of his old acquaintance," counselled the solicitor, who was part of the legal team.



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12b. True or false? The sentence below is written in the subjunctive form.

"It is imperative that she completes her project in a timely manner if she wishes her work to be perused by the experts," warned the curator of the gallery.



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Varied Fluency
Subjective Form in Formal Speech
and Writing

Developing

- 1a. **B**
2a. "I wish that she were still here with me," said the old man sadly.
3a. **were**
4a. **True**

Expected

- 5a. **A**
6a. "I insist that he apologise immediately," demanded the politician.
7a. **work**
8a. **False; the verb 'be' should be used instead of 'are'.**

Greater Depth

- 9a. **B**
10a. **Due to unforeseen problems, I propose he make changes to the initial design in order to pacify the disgruntled client.**
11a. **have**
12a. **True**

Varied Fluency
Subjective Form in Formal Speech
and Writing

Developing

- 1b. **C**
2b. "If I were in charge, I would give you the job," said the assistant manager.
3b. **were**
4b. **False; the verb 'were' should be used instead of 'was'.**

Expected

- 5b. **C**
6b. "It is vital that he arrive on time for the meeting," advised the social worker.
7b. **take**
8b. **True**

Greater Depth

- 9b. **C**
10b. **I believe, perchance, that if he use the time wisely, the project can still come to a satisfactory conclusion.**
11b. **apply**
12b. **False; the verb should be 'complete'.**