What Is the Subjunctive?

Introducción al subjuntivo

Grammar hints: bold = subject; underline = verb; italics = object; bold with a gray highlight = negation. The labels below each example explain its roles.

Understand it · Entiéndelo

What you are learning · Qué vas a aprender

The subjunctive is a mood, not simply a tense. Compare stating information with expressing a wish about someone else: quiero que + subjunctive. Infinitives often work when both actions have the same subject.

English	Spanish
Ana studies.	Ana estudia. estudia: Verb — action or state
I want Ana to study.	Quiero que Ana estudie. estudie: Verb — action or state
I want to study.	Quiero estudiar. estudiar: Verb — action or state

Build it step by step · Constrúyelo paso a paso

English	Spanish
I know Ana is coming.	Sé que Ana viene. viene: Verb — action or state
I hope Ana comes.	Espero que Ana venga. venga: Verb — action or state

Try it · Inténtalo

Choose: Quiero (estudiar / estudie). Quiero que Ana (estudia / estudie).

Self-check · Comprueba tu respuesta

Quiero estudiar. Quiero que Ana estudie. A new subject after que changes the construction.

Common mistake · Error común

Que alone does not trigger the subjunctive: Sé que viene uses the indicative.

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When one person wants, asks, or recommends that another act, use que + subjunctive. With the same subject, an infinitive often expresses the action.

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I want you to come.	Quiero que vengas. vengas: Verb — action or state
I recommend that you study.	Te recomiendo que estudies. estudies: Verb — action or state
I ask you to open the door.	Te pido que abras la puerta. abras: Verb — action or state

Build it step by step · Constrúyelo paso a paso

English	Spanish
I want to leave.	Quiero salir. salir: Verb — action or state
I want Ana to leave.	Quiero que Ana salga. salga: Verb — action or state

Try it · Inténtalo

Recommend that a friend study and ask that friend to open the book.

Self-check · Comprueba tu respuesta

Te recomiendo que estudies. Te pido que abras el libro.

Common mistake · Error común

English “I want you to…” does not become quiero tú…; use Quiero que + subjunctive.

Notes

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