

Verb Moods

The mood of a verb or verb phrase indicates your attitude toward a statement as you make it.



Indicative Verb Mood

Most verbs we use are in the indicative mood, which indicates a fact or opinion.

matter-of-fact sentences



He ate too much.

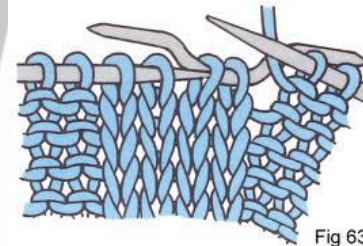
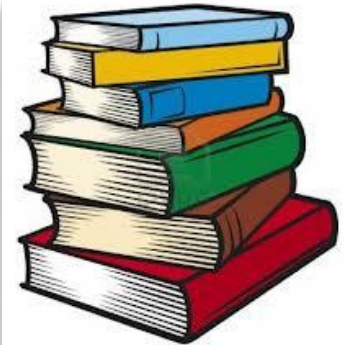
He was here.

I am hungry.

She will bring her books.

John will fly to Chicago today.

Although I can knit, I have never learned to sew.



Interrogative Verb Mood

Most grammarians classify interrogative sentences as indicative.

An interrogative sentence asks a question.



Was Harriet late to her wedding?

What are you wearing to the party?

Why did Harold cut his own hair?



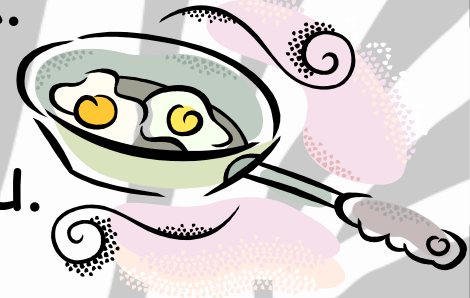
Imperative Verb Mood

The imperative mood expresses commands or requests.

All imperative verbs are in the second person, present tense. Writers generally omit the subject, you, of an imperative verb, but writers understand it as part of the sentence.



Don't talk to me!
Be here at seven o'clock.
Cook me an omelet.
Bring your books with you.
Please forgive me.



Imperative Verb Mood

Practice

The verb in each sentence below expresses the indicative mood. Rewrite the sentence to express the imperative mood.

1. She leaves right away.
2. He always drives carefully.
3. She practices the piano every day.
4. He leaves nothing to chance.
5. She prepares herself mentally to succeed.

Subjunctive Verb Mood

When verbs show something contrary to fact:
used to communicate such feelings as
wishfulness, hopefulness, and imagination

When using the verb 'to be' in the subjunctive,
always use were rather than was.

I wish I were a rock star.

If Bob were famous, his face would
be on the dollar bill.

I wish I had something to eat.

If I were the king of the forest...



Subjunctive Verb Mood

Practice

For each of the following sentences, first determine whether the verb should express the indicative or the subjunctive mood. Then write the sentence, supplying the appropriate form of the verb in parentheses.

1. My sister Antonia's tennis instructor (teach) people of all ages and levels of ability.
2. Antonia, who practices for an hour a day six times a week, wishes that she (be) an expert player like Steffi Graf or André Agassi.
3. I told her, "If I (be) you, I would consider working at least an hour a day on my serve alone."
4. Antonia has learned that in order to hit the ball with a good forehand stroke, it is important that she (prepare) for the ball.
5. Good players (shift) their weight forward during the stroke.
6. If my sister is to play her very best game of tennis, it is vital that she (play) on a clay court rather than on a grass court.
7. It (be) important that a player (have) a good sense of balance.
8. If the net (be) six inches high instead of the regulation thirty-six inches, it would be much easier for me to serve effectively.
9. Antonia (want) me to take tennis lessons from her tennis instructor too.
10. She thinks if I (be) willing to apply myself, which I am, we would make a formidable doubles team.

Conditional Verb Mood

Conditional sentences are statements discussing known factors or hypothetical situations and their consequences. They are often grouped with the subjunctive mood.

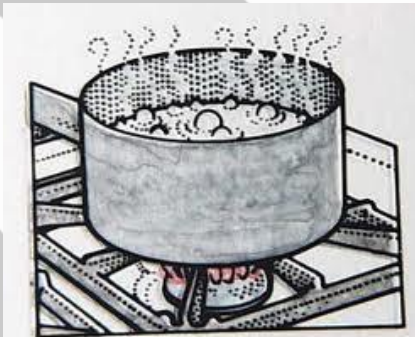
Complete conditional sentences contain a conditional clause and the consequence.

If a certain condition is true, then a particular result happens.

If it rains, the picnic will be cancelled.

I would travel around the world
if I could afford it.

When water reaches 212° , it boils.



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