

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Benchmark Review: Verb Mood

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?

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**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. \_\_\_\_\_