

# WALT use the subjunctive form.

## WILF:

- Recognise that certain verbs and expressions require a different verb form.
- Understand that subjunctive verb does not change for I/you/he/they/etc.
- Give advice using the subjunctive structure, "If I were you, I would..."



# **Is it imperative that the subjunctive be used?**

(If I were you, I'd have a look at this . . . )

# Giving Advice

What would you suggest for these problems?



I've got a terrible cough. I just can't get rid of it!

Oh no! I've forgotten my lunch AGAIN!



Did anyone begin their suggestion with the phrase, "If I were you, I would..."?

Well done; you're using the subjunctive verb form!

# Strange New Verbs

Huh? The subjunctive verb form? What's that?

Have a look at these sentences, can you see anything unusual about the verbs?

If John **were** to get an A on his test, I would be very surprised.

**Were** I a little bit taller, I would be able to reach the shelf.

I would run if I **were** younger.

If I **were** him, I'd try a lot harder at school.



# Strange New Verbs

Wouldn't we usually say them like this?

If John **got** an A on his test, I would be very surprised.

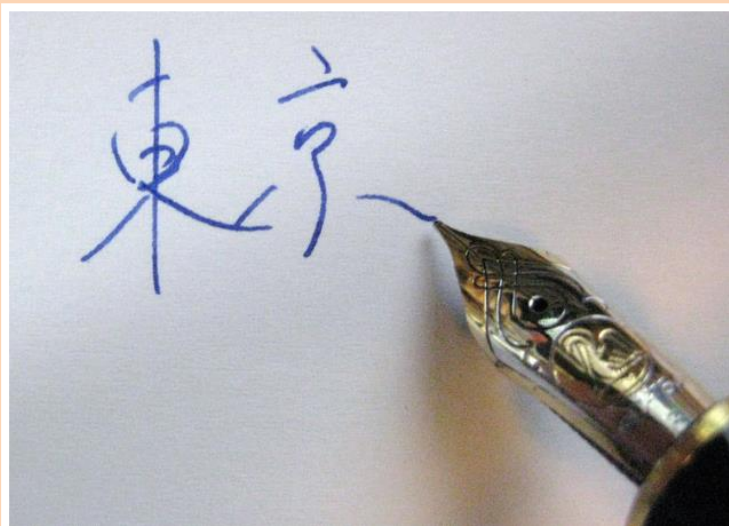
If I **was** a little bit taller, I would be able to reach the shelf.

I would run if I **was** younger.

If I **was** him, I'd try a lot harder at school.

# Subjunctive Verbs

The **subjunctive verb** form can be used to show that we don't think the situation is really possible.



Japanese **isn't** going to be taught here.

I'm **not** going to cool down anytime soon!



# Subjunctive Verbs

The **subjunctive verb** form structure is really quite simple:

For all verbs except the past of 'be', you use the same as the **infinitive** (basic) form.

be (past)

I **were**  
you **were**  
he, she, it **were**  
we **were**  
you **were**  
they **were**

be (present)

I **be**  
you **be**  
he, she, it **be**  
we **be**  
you **be**  
they **be**

all other verbs (past and present)

I **work**  
you **work**  
he, she, it **work**  
we **work**  
you **work**  
they **work**

# Subjunctive Verbs

Actually, it's even easier because the subjunctive doesn't change according to the person (I, you, he/she/it, etc.)



You don't always notice this, because it sometimes sounds like the normal verb.



# Ok, that's what it is, but what is it for?

The subjunctive verb form isn't common in everyday British speech.

However, it is often used after **formal verbs** such as **require, demand, suggest, propose**.

The governors propose **that** class 5 **learn** maths all day.

The Queen demands **that** all children **be** taught to curtsy.

Mrs Smith requires **that** James Brown **go** to her office now.

Might I suggest **that** your son **wait** outside until we have finished our chat?

# Other Uses

The subjunctive verb form is also used after **formal expressions**, such as **it is desirable/necessary/vital/essential**

It is desirable **that** the whole class **be** here early for the trip.

Is it necessary **that** you **eat** all your chocolate right now?

It is vital **that** each child **bring** their own water bottle to school.

It is essential **that** Magda **take** her hay fever medicine daily.

# Plenary

What have we learned about the subjunctive form?

The subjunctive form is used in formal language.

It can be used to give advice or a talk about an unreal situation.

The subjunctive form follows certain verbs or expressions.

If I were you though, I wouldn't worry too much about it!