

ALL THE FORMS OF THE SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD

The Present Subjunctive

La maestra espera que el estudiante haga la tarea.

The teacher hopes that the student does his homework.

The Imperfect Subjunctive

La maestra esperaba que el estudiante hiciera la tarea.
esperó

The teacher was hoping that the student did his homework.

The Present Perfect Subjunctive

La maestra espera que el estudiante haya hecho la tarea.

The teacher hopes that the student has done the homework.

The Past Perfect Subjunctive

La maestra esperaba que el estudiante hubiera hecho la tarea.
esperó

The teacher was hoping that the student had done his homework.

"If" clauses

present Si yo mantengo un promedio alto future podré asistir a una buena universidad. (*Indicative = Fact*)

If I maintain a high average I will be able to attend a good university.

Imperfect subjunctive Si yo mantuviera un promedio alto conditional podría ir a una buena universidad. (*Possibility = Present statement*)

If I were to maintain a high average I would attend a good university.
Past perfect subj. Conditional perfect or past perfect subj.

Si yo hubiera mantenido un promedio alto habría asistido a una buena universidad. (*Possibility = Past*)
hubiera asistido

If I would have maintained a high average I would have attended a good university.

La Secuencia de Tiempos del Subjuntivo

In this paragraph you find a summary of when to use the present subjunctive, the past subjunctive, the present perfect subjunctive and the pluperfect subjunctive.

In order to make this decision you have to answer two questions:

1. What is the tense of the main verb (the verb in the main clause)?

- o For our purpose we can divide the Spanish tenses in two subdivisions:

the **present set**: present, present perfect, future, imperative

the **past set**: preterite, imperfect, pluperfect, present conditional, past conditional

When did the action of the subordinate clause occur in relation to the time frame of the main clause?

- o at the same time?
- o after it?
- o before it?
- o before another action in the past?

This gives us the following combinations:

Tenses of main verb	Relation between subordinate and main clause	Kind of subjunctive in subordinate clause	Example
Present set	Same time	Present subjunctive	Dudo que me ames. (I doubt that you love me.)
	After		Dudo que vengas. (I doubt that you will come.)
Past set	Before main clause	Present Perfect Subjunctive	Dudo que hayas comido. (I doubt that you have eaten.)
		Past Subjunctive	Dudo que Ana estuviera enferma. (I doubt that A. was sick.)
	Before another prior action	Pluperfect Subjunctive	Dudo que Ana hubiera estado enferma antes del concierto. (I doubt that A. had been sick before the concert.)
Past set	Same time	Past Subjunctive	Dudaba que amaras. (I doubted that you were in love with me.)
	After		Dudaba que vinieras. (I doubted that you would come.)
	Before main clause	Pluperfect Subjunctive	Dudaba que hubieras venido. (I doubted that you had come.)

La cláusula con si es una condición de la que depende la oración principal. Noten que la condición en el presente expresa *posibilidad*, mientras que la condición en el imperfecto de subjuntivo expresa *improbabilidad*, y la condición en el pluscuamperfecto de subjuntivo indica que *la oportunidad pasó* y ya no se puede realizar. Observen las siguientes oraciones:

Si tengo el dinero, me compraré un coche deportivo.	<i>If I have the money (which is a possibility), I will buy a sports car.</i>
Si vienes el lunes, te veré.	<i>If you come on Monday (and you may), I will see you</i>
Si tuviera el dinero, me compraría un coche deportivo.	<i>If I had the money (but I do not have the money), I would buy a sports car.</i>
Si vinieras el lunes, te vería.	<i>If you would come on Monday (but you would not), I would see you.</i>
Si hubiera tenido el dinero, me habría comprado un coche deportivo.	<i>If I had had the money, (but I did not have the money), I would have bought a sports car.</i>
Si hubieras venido el lunes, te habría visto.	<i>If you had come on Monday, (but you did not come), I would have seen you.</i>

Todas las oraciones de arriba contienen dos cláusulas:

- Una cláusula con si (*if-clause*), que expresa la condición
- Una cláusula principal (*result clause*), que expresa un posible resultado.

	SI-CLAUSE (condition)	MAIN CLAUSE (result)
When the condition expresses something possible	Present indicative	future
When the condition expresses something improbable	Imperfect subjunctive	Conditional
When the condition expresses something contrary to fact	Pluperfect subjunctive	Conditional perfect