

## Using the Correct Verb Mood: Indicative and Subjunctive

The mood of a verb shows the writer's or speaker's purpose or attitude. Different verb moods follow different rules for subject-verb agreement.



Verbs in **indicative mood** express statements of fact or opinion. Most sentences and clauses in English use the indicative mood. Verbs in the indicative mood follow **normal subject-verb agreement rules**.

*Netta practices on the trampoline every day to perfect her back handspring.*

*Tate and Jeanie are first in line to get concert tickets.*

Verbs in **subjunctive mood** may express indirect demands, requests, and suggestions, used in clauses after phrases such as "request that." In these situations, the **base form of the verb** is used.

*The coach recommends that Netta practice every day to perfect her back handspring.*

*I suggest that Tate and Jeanie be first in line if they want the best tickets to the concert.*

Verbs in the subjunctive mood may also express **counterfactuals**, or situations that are not true or not possible under the current circumstances. In these situations, the plural verb "**were**" is used even for singular subjects.

*If Netta were more confident, she would practice her back handspring on the grass.*

*If I were them, I would arrive at the ticket box office two hours in advance.*

**Directions: Circle the correct verb form for the following indicative and subjunctive situations.**

- 1 The greeter asks that Wilder **remove** / **removes** his shoes before entering the temple.
- 2 Laramie's eyes are so sensitive that she **wear** / **wears** sunglasses even on rainy days.
- 3 Though we lost the board game tournament to Aaron and Dwayne, we'll beat them next time. Have them call us when they **are** / **be** ready for a rematch.
- 4 Kai said if she **was** / **were** on the cooking show, she would make her famous Navajo tacos.
- 5 The rules of the poetry contest require that all entries **are** / **be** submitted before noon next Friday.
- 6 The guide pointed out that if the mountain **was** / **were** made of sandstone, it would erode more quickly.
- 7 Izzy is doing extra chores and making a daily schedule to prove to her parents that she **be** / **is** responsible enough to have a puppy.
- 8 Speaking to a large group of guests, the owner of the new Brazilian restaurant suggested that they **are** / **be** patient, promising that the incredible food would be worth the wait.
- 9 Although I glued nearly a thousand squares of yellow tissue to the sides, the parade float **remain** / **remains** unfinished.
- 10 Contrary to popular belief, lightning occasionally **strike** / **strikes** the same place twice.