

# Verb Moods

## Mood of the verb... Say it with ATTITUDE!

Mood is the attitude a verb conveys in a sentence. Changing the verb's mood will change the tone of the sentence. Verb moods indicate a state of being or reality.

5 moods

- **Indicative:** expresses an assertion, facts, or opinions; the “normal” verb form.
- **Imperative:** expresses command, prohibition, entreaty or advice. This mood is used to give orders or make requests. Often the subject is implied rather than stated.
- **Interrogative:** expresses a state of questioning. You will often notice inversion in the order of subject and verb.
- **Conditional:** indicates a conditional state that will cause something else to happen. Often uses the words might, could, or would.
- **Subjunctive:** expresses doubt or something contrary to fact. Something is not factual, but probable, unlikely, hoped for, or feared. These are the clauses that often start with “If,” “I wish that,” “I hope that,” or “I desire that.” In the indicative, we would say “I was,” but in the hypothetical subjunctive, we would use the verb form “were.” Keep in mind that not all clauses that begin with “If” are contrary to fact.

Indicative	She is happy.
Imperative	Smile! (Note: The subject “you” is implied rather than stated.)
Interrogative	Is she happy? (Note: The subject follows the verb.)
Conditional	She could be happy.
Subjunctive	If she won the lottery, she would be happy. (Note: the 2 <sup>nd</sup> clause is conditional)

Now, you try! Create your own sentences showing the mood of the verb.

Indicative	
Imperative	
Interrogative	
Conditional	
Subjunctive	

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## Learn About It...

The **mood** of a verb refers to the manner in which the verb is expressed.

Most verbs are **indicative** and are used to express statements of fact or opinion.

The **imperative** mood is used to give orders and make requests.

The **interrogative** mood asks questions.

The **conditional** mood expresses a condition or a hypothetical situation.

The **subjunctive** mood can express wishes, doubt, or contradictions.

A **shift** in the verb mood occurs when more than one mood is used in the same sentence. Unnecessary shifts should be avoided.

Verb Moods		
Mood	Sentence	Explanation
Indicative	This book <u>is</u> three hundred pages long	A statement of fact is expressed.
Imperative	<u>Sit</u> in your seat.	A command is given.
Interrogative	<u>Did you hear</u> a noise?	A question is asked.
Conditional	<u>If I study</u> hard, <u>I will do</u> well on the test.	The sentence expresses a hypothetical situation.
Subjunctive	If I <u>were</u> taller, I would play basketball . <u>I wish I were</u> taller.	The subject gives a statement that is contrary to fact or wishes for something.
Shift in verb mood	<u>Raise</u> your hand, and then <u>can you ask</u> your question?	<u>Raise</u> is imperative, while <u>can you ask</u> is interrogative.

Read the following sentences. Write the mood of each verb next to the sentence. Circle the sentence with the shift in mood.

Did you see that huge bug?

Call me when you get home, and then you should start your homework.

Get in this house right now.

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## Quiz: Moods of the Verb

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1. Complete this sentence: *The mood of a verb indicates* \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ a. the subject is active.  
☐ b. a state of being or reality.  
☐ c. the speaker is the subject.
2. Complete this sentence: *The indicative mood of a verb is used* \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ a. in most statements and questions.  
☐ b. in a direct command.  
☐ c. to indicate the future tense.
3. Complete this sentence: *The imperative mood of a verb is used to* \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ a. show the indirect object is being acted upon.  
☐ b. ask a question.  
☐ c. indicate a request or command.
4. Complete this sentence: *The interrogative mood of a verb is used to* \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ a. show the indirect object is being acted upon.  
☐ b. ask a question.  
☐ c. indicate a request or command.
5. Complete this sentence: *The conditional mood of a verb is used to* \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ a. show the indirect object is being acted upon.  
☐ b. indicate a state that will cause something else to happen.  
☐ c. indicate a request or command.
6. Complete this sentence: *The subjunctive mood of a verb is most commonly used* \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ a. when the subject is acting upon an object.  
☐ b. in a direct question or a command.  
☐ c. in contrary-to-fact or hypothetical statements.
7. Which sentence shows the INDICATIVE mood?  
☐ a. Sit down and be quiet.  
☐ b. She walks her two dogs every day.  
☐ c. Why did he insist on driving to the mall?
8. Which sentence shows the IMPERATIVE mood?  
☐ a. Turn in your ID badge before leaving the building.  
☐ b. We should turn in our ID badges before leaving the building.  
☐ c. Should we turn in our ID badges before leaving the building?
9. Which sentence shows the CONDITIONAL mood?

# Verb Moods



a. You could earn high wages.



b. You earn high wages.



c. Do you earn high wages.

10. Which sentence shows the SUBJUNCTIVE mood?



a. If he were the chief financial officer, the company would make a profit.



b. Is he the chief financial officer of this profitable company?



c. He is the chief financial officer of a profitable company.

# Verb Moods

## Try It

Read the following passage. Pay attention to verb moods. Circle any sentences with shifts in mood. Use the questions to help you.

### Technology Overload

(1) Technology burnout is a very real problem in today's society. (2) It's not just a matter of too much technology—though that's certainly a contributing factor—it's also about us paying too much attention to it. (3) Think about it: your smartphone buzzes to let you know you have an email. (4) Do you check it right away? (5) If you're like most Americans, the answer is yes. (6) We're like Pavlov's dogs, constantly taking our phone out of our pocket the moment it tells us there's new information to read. (7) This immediate gratification leads to addictive behavior in many people, so much so that we sometimes forget proper etiquette.

Which sentence in the first paragraph uses the interrogative mood?

(8) Remember your manners and you should put your phone down. (9) Just as no one wants to hear your conversation in a theater, no one wants to see the bright screen of your phone while they're watching a movie. (10) Similarly, put your phone away when there are live human beings in front of you. (11) It's simply rude to answer emails while your friend is trying to have a conversation with you; this type of multitasking is one possible cause for burnout, not to mention a strained friendship.

How would you revise the shift in verb mood in sentence 8?

(12) Want to avoid technology burnout? (13) Take a break. (14) Just because you *can* stay connected twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, doesn't mean that you *should*.

Identify the mood of the verb in each of the following sentences. The first one is done for you.

1. indicative

8. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_

What is the difference between the indicative and the imperative mood?

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# Verb Moods

## Apply It

Read the following passage. It contains mistakes. Answer the questions that follow.

### Cleaning House

(1) Luis was concerned that his friend Sarabeth looked a little sad at school one day. (2) "What's wrong, my friend?" he asked, putting his arm around her.

(3) Sarabeth signed, "I'm worried about my mom. (4) She was laid off from the factory last week. (5) Fortunately, she found another job right away—a really great one in an office—but she seemed unusually nervous about it when she left the house this morning. (6) I wish I were rich. (7) Or at least that I could help with the expenses."

(8) "Don't fret. (9) Sara, your mom is one of the toughest women I know." (10) Luis was happy to see a smile overtake the sad expression on Sarabeth's face before he left her to go to soccer practice.

(11) Practice was a wash for Luis. (12) Coach said, "If you don't have your physical signed yet, you can't play today." (13) Luis should have stayed and watched, but he was starved, so he decided to go home early and surprise his mom.

(14) When he got home, he heard his mom's voice coming from the study. (15) "That looks great, Carla. (16) Just dust the shelves, and then you should vacuum the floor. (17) After that, you're free to go." (18) Luis peeked around the corner to see his mom handing a check to Sarabeth's mom.

(19) "Thank you, Mrs. Montego. (20) I appreciate you hiring me."

(21) Luis wanted to go back in time and unlearn everything he had just seen and heard. (22) Trying to save both of them the embarrassment, Luis snuck back outside and waited until after Sarabeth's mom had left before reentering his house.

# Verb Moods

Answer each of the following questions in reference to “Cleaning House.”

1. When Luis speaks to Sarabeth in sentence 2, which verb mood does he use?

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2. What is the verb mood in sentence 4?

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3. What is the verb mood in sentence 6? How do you know?

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4. Rewrite sentence 8 in the interrogative mood.

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5. In sentence 12, which verb mood does Coach use? How do you know?

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6. What is wrong with sentence 16? How should sentence 16 be revised?

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# Verb Moods

## Overview:

The indicative mood makes a statement or asks a question. The imperative mood expresses commands or requests. The subjunctive mood represents an act or state of being as a contingency or possibility.

- **Indicative mood and Interrogative mood:** The indicative mood is used to make a statement, while the interrogative mood is used to ask a question. Almost all of the verbs you use in speaking or writing are in one of these two moods.
- **Imperative mood:** The imperative mood is used to express commands or requests. Even when please is added, the verb is still imperative.  
*Please take this book to the media center.*  
*Sit up straight.*

**NOTE: The indicative, interrogative, and imperative moods do not change the forms of the verb, but the subjunctive mood does change the verb form.**

- **Subjunctive mood:** The subjunctive mood does not state a fact, but represents an act or state of being as a contingency or possibility.  
**Uses of the Subjunctive Mood:**
  1. It expresses a demand, recommendation, suggestion, wish, hope, or necessity.  
*Examples:*
    - Demand: The teacher demanded that Joe report to the principal's office immediately.
    - Recommendation or Suggestion: I suggest that she take Spanish next semester.
    - Necessity: It is necessary that Tom be home by dark.
    - Wish or hope: God bless you!
    - "If this be treason!" said Patrick Henry (not stating that it is treason)
  2. It states a condition or wish that is contrary to fact.  
*Examples:*
    - "If this be treason!" said Patrick Henry (not stating that it is treason)
    - Condition that is contrary to fact: If Sarah were the principal, things might be a lot better.
    - Wish that is contrary to fact: I wish I were a genius.



# Verb Moods

**Exercise 1: Underline the errors in each of the following sentences and rewrite each correctly.**

Example: Jack walks as if he was lame.

Correction: *Jack walks as if he were lame.*

1. I wish my brother was with me during this time.
2. I only hope that he keeps his appointment; otherwise, I will miss the entire performance.
3. It is necessary that the photographer gets you to look at the camera.
4. She complained to me as if I was in charge.
5. It is suggested that the photographer keeps the background uncluttered.
6. If I was the President, I would have no more homeless people or hunger.
7. It is necessary in her job that she remains healthy.
8. I wish I was a champion tennis player.
9. I recommend that you are careful when driving.
10. If this is reality, I would rather be dreaming.
11. I suggest that you are paying attention.
12. He looks as if he was going to faint.
13. If Joe was a little older, he might have more sense.
14. If only he was twenty.
15. If this was war, I would enlist immediately.
16. If Tom was more sociable, he would have many more friends.
17. The teacher suggested that Jane takes another course in math.
18. I suggest that Bob was less formal.
19. If Jane was elected tomorrow, we would all celebrate.
20. I wish that Joe was more tactful and considerate.

**Exercise 2: On a separate piece of paper, write original sentences using the suggestions for each sentence.**

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|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Contrary to fact | 5. Demand           |
| 2. Necessity        | 6. Desire           |
| 3. Hope             | 7. Wish             |
| 4. Suggestion       | 8. Contrary to fact |