

The Subjunctive Mood

Usage and Exercises

In Simple Sentences it is used:

1. to express wish
 - Long live the Queen!
 - Success attend you!
- or with *may*
 - May success attend you!
 - May you live long and die happy!
2. to express an unreal wish
 - If only he were free!
3. in oath and imprecations
 - Manners be hanged!
4. in some expressions
 - Suffice it to say that...
 - Be it so!

Complex Sentences

1. Adverbial Clause of Condition

Unreal Condition

	If-Clause	Principle Clause	
to express Present or Future	were* Past	should would could might	Infinitive (- to)
to express Past	Past Perfect	should would could might	Perfect Infinitive (- to)

*in Spoken English **was** is used for Singular Person.

- The world **would be** healthier if every chemist's shop in England **were** demolished.

Unreal - referring to the future - **should** for all persons is used (Случись так, что...)

- Well, if you **should** send me to a difficult spot - with this man alone, I'd feel secure.

In Principal Clause - the Imperative Mood can be used.

- If any of your family **should** come to my house, I will be delighted to welcome them.
- If he **should** come, ask him to wait.

Referring to the Past:

- If I **had consulted** my own interests, I **should have** never **come** here.
- I **could have done** it very well, if I **had been** without the Murdstones.

Mixed Condition

1. If you **had taken** your medicine yesterday, you **would be** well now.
2. If he **were** not so absent-minded, he **would not have mistaken** you for your sister.
3. She **wouldn't have done** that if she **disliked** me.

Conjunctions for *If*-Clauses: ***if; in case; provided; suppose; unless...***

- Suppose he wrote to you, would you answer?
- Isabel would not have engaged herself to Mr. Hardyman unless she had been fond of him.

Inversion

- Mary would indeed have been grateful to Miss Dunstable, **could** she **have known** all that lady did for her.
- **Should** he **come** this way, I'll speak to him.
- **Had** they **known** him better they wouldn't have invited him.

2. Adverbial Clause of Purpose

Conjunctions: ***that; so that; in order that;...***

May (might) - for the present and future

Might - for the past

- She opens (will open) the window that she **may (might)** get a breath of fresh air.
- He got up, cautiously, so that he **might not wake** the sleeping baby.

Occasionally ***should*** is used.

- I made shorthand notes of all that she said, so that there **should be** no possibility of a mistake.

Lest - negative; then ***should*** for all persons is used.

- She opens (opened, will open) the window lest it **should be** stuffy in the room.

3. Adverbial Clause of Concession

Conjunctions: ***though; although; however; no matter; whatever; whenever...***

May (might) - is generally used

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Though he <i>may (might) be tired</i> – <i>Tired</i> though he <i>may (might) be</i> – No matter how <i>tired</i> he <i>may (might) be</i> – However <i>tired</i> he <i>may (might) be</i> 	he will go to the concert.
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- I should like to do some good to you and your husband, whoever he **may be**.

With the action prior to that of the Principal Clause Perfect Infinitive is used.

- However badly he **may have behaved** to you in the past he's still your brother

4. Adverbial Clause of Time /Place

Conjunctions: ***whenever; wherever***

- Whenever you may (might) come, you are welcome.
- I shall come to your marriage, whenever it may be fixed

5. Adverbial Clause of Comparison (or manner)

Conjunctions: *as if; as though*

- She speaks (spoke) about him as if she **knew** him well.
- She greeted him as if he **were** her brother.

If the action in the Subordinate Clause is *prior* to that of the principal clause *Perfect Infinitive* is used.

- She speaks (spoke) about him as if she **had known** him for years

6. Predicative Clause

a) Conjunctions: *as if; as though* with link verbs: *be; feel; look; seem...*

Speaking about *priority* - *Past Perfect* is used in the Subordinate Clause.

- I feel as if I **were** back seven years, John.
- The house looked as if it **had been deserted** for weeks.
- I feel as if I **had** never been away.
- It was as if she **were** angry with me

b) The Subject of the Principal Clause is expressed by an abstract noun: *wish; suggestion; aim; idea ...*

Should is used for all persons.

- Mary's wish was that her mother **should come** and live with her.
- One of the conditions was that I **should go** abroad.

7. Subject Clause

should (for all persons)

It is (was)	necessary important right requested recommended obligatory desirable of vital importance	that he should come .
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- It was necessary that the child's history **should be known** to none.
- It was desirable that she **should marry** this earnest, well-to-do and respectable man.
- It's better for these young men that they **should not remain** here.

8. Object Clause

a) wish - in the Principal Clause. For simultaneous actions - Past forms.

For priority - Perfect forms.

- I wish I **were** a girl again.
- She wished she **were** free and follow them.
- I wish she **felt** as I do.
- He wished he **had** someone to talk to.

- I wish I **hadn't done** it.

To express action referring to the *present* or *future* - **would** is used (for all persons).

- I wish you **would stay** with me for a while.
- I wish the honourable district attorney **would mind** his own business.

b) lest - the Predicate in the Principal Clause denotes fear.

should (for all persons) is used

- She fears lest she **should be blamed**.
- He trembled lest his secret **should be discovered**.

If we use the conjunction **that** - the Indicative Mood is used, often with modal verbs may (might).

- She fears (feared) that she **will (would) be blamed**.
- She fears (feared) that she **may (might) be blamed**.

c) after verbs denoting *order, suggestion, advice, desire...* **should** is used (for all persons)

He	orders / ordered suggests / suggested proposes / proposed demands / demanded desires / desired insists / insisted is / was anxious	that everything should be ready by 5.
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- Mrs. Linton insisted that Isabella **should go** to bed.
- Mr. Micawter was very anxious that I **should stay** to dinner.

In American English - Present Subjunctive is often used in this case.

- ... she insisted that they **open** a bottle of wine and toast his success.
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9. Attribute Appositive Clauses.

Modifying the nouns *wish; suggestion; aim; idea...*

Should is used (for all persons).

- She had been enormously flattered by his requests that she **should** temporarily **keep** his house.
- His wish (suggestion) that everybody **should take part** in the work was reasonable.

10. Attributive Clauses

Modifying the word *time*.

It's time / It's high time - were (for all persons,) is used or Past form

- It's time you **learned** you are in the army.
- It's time we **went** home.
- It's time we **were** off.

should - possible, but less common

- It's time we **should go** home.
- It was high time that someone **should come** to the aid of the old farmer and his adopted daughter.

Emotional attitude

should Speaking about priority - Perfect forms are used.

The Principal Clause may express *astonishment, incredulity, regret, joy...*

Rendered in Russian by the Indicative Mood.

- a) adjectives - *strange/ wonderful; unnatural; impossible; fortunate; unfortunate*
- It is strange I **should have** never heard him even mention your name.
 - It is impossible that she **should have said** it.

- b) nouns - *wonder; pity; shame...*
- He is such a charming man that it is quite a pity he **should be** so grave and so dull.

c)

I am	sorry glad pleased vexed	<i>as the Principal Clause</i>
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- I'm sorry you **should take** such needless trouble.
- Against my will I felt pleased that he **should have considered** my remark interesting.
- I'm so vexed that such a thing **should have been discussed** before that child.

Emotional should

- Why **should** you and I talk about it?
- To think this **should have come** upon us in our old age.

The Indicative is also possible.

- Oh! It's strange he never **mentioned** to me that he had a family.
- ... to think that I **have been** so blind!

Rendering the Subjunctive into Russian

Using the Subjunctive:

- I wish you'd come oftener to see us.
Я хотел бы, чтобы вы почаще заходили к нам.
- I wonder sometimes, what they would have done, if I had been taken with an illness.
Интересно, как бы они поступили, если бы я заболел.

Using the Indicative / sometimes the Infinitive:

- Barsiny received them as if he had known them for years.
Барсини принял их так, как будто он знал их много лет.
- I proposed to Ada that she should go and see Richard.
Я предложил Аде пойти навестить Ричарда.
- He again took her hand that he might encourage her.
И он опять взял ее руку, чтобы поддержать ее.

Exercises

Ex. 1 Rewrite these sentences as conditionals.

A. Example: I can't write to her because I don't know her address.

I could write to her if I knew her address.

1. I'd like to go abroad, but I can't afford it.
2. I'm not going to buy that car because it's so expensive.
3. We can't go out because it's raining.
4. She won't come to the party because she's away.
5. The central heating isn't working so we can't turn it on.
6. We can't go swimming because it's very cold.
7. Jack is out so I can't have a word with him.

B. Example: Unfortunately I didn't see him, so I couldn't give him your message.

If I had seen him I could have given him your message.

1. Unfortunately he didn't pass his exams or he might have gone to the University.
2. He didn't realize what was happening or he would have run away.
3. Fortunately I didn't hear what she said or I would have been very angry.
4. They got in because you didn't lock the door properly.
5. It only happened because you didn't follow the instructions.
6. Luckily she didn't find it out or she would have been furious.
7. It's lucky we booked a room or we would have had nowhere to stay.
8. It's a good job we weren't going any faster or someone could have been killed.
9. He was so tired that he went home at lunchtime.

Ex. 2 Match the two parts of these conditional sentences

1. You can borrow the money	a. I would have invited you to lunch.
2. He'll probably get lost	b. would you ask him to call back later.
3. Had I known you were coming	c. provided he has recovered from his cold.
4. George says he will come	d. unless you are a member of staff.
5. You are not allowed to park in the school	e. as long as it was black.
6. Should he telephone while I'm out	f. provided he can stay overnight.
7. Henry said you could have any colour you wanted	g. so long as you promise to pay it back.
8. Fred will be at school next week	h. unless someone shows him the way.

Ex. 3 Form sentences of unreal condition referring to the past, based on the given facts.

Example: I didn't greet him because I didn't recognize him.

If I had recognised him I would have greeted him.

1. We went to the theatre because we had tickets.
2. We lost our way because the night was pitch-dark.
3. They made a fire and frightened wolves away.
4. Our telephone was out of order, that's why I didn't call you up last night.
5. We didn't write the article because many of the students objected to our interpretation of the facts.

Ex. 4 Translate the following sentences into English:

1. Если бы Том знал, что тетя Поли выдернет ему зуб, он никогда бы не сказал ей, что страдает от зубной боли уже несколько дней.
2. Если бы он не вмешался в разговор, они бы поссорились.
3. Если бы он послушался нашего совета, он бы не попал в катастрофу.
4. Если бы я не понимал серьезности обстановки, я бы никогда не согласился бы с вашим планом.
5. Если бы вы не помогли мне вовремя, я бы не сделал этот перевод за один день.
6. Если бы не ваша помощь, я бы не сделал эту работу так быстро.
7. Если бы не операция, он не смог бы работать своей правой рукой.

Ex. 5 Read the text about the Gordon family.

Then use the prompts below to write unreal conditional sentences using *if*.

Lucky discovery gives the Gordons three extra rooms

Returning home from a trip abroad, Brian and Jenny Gordon were horrified to find their 17th century cottage under two meters of water, following the recent floods. The cottage was so severely damaged that they had to call the builders in. While knocking down the section of the wall, the builders were amazed to discover a "secret room". In it they found a collection of original sketches by a famous local artist, several pieces of antique furniture, an impressive collection of antique dolls and a dolls house. They also came across the original deeds to the house, revealing another two hidden rooms. Brian Gordon remarked, "We're absolutely gobsmacked. We were thinking of buying a bigger house but now we've got three more rooms." The builders have started to renovate the rooms and the sketches and dolls have been given to the local museum.

Example: if / house / flooded / not / get builders in /

If the house hadn't been flooded, they wouldn't have got builders in.

1. builders / not knock wall down / if not absolutely necessary.
2. if / not knock down wall / not discover secret room.
3. if / not discover secret room / sketches / never found.
4. sketches / be on display / museum / if builders / not find.

Ex. 6 What would you say? Write a wish or a regret using the words given.

- a) I don't have a lot of free time at the moment.
I wish _____.
- b) I didn't go to bed till very late last night and now I'm really tired.
I wish / earlier _____.
- c) It would be nice to be able to take some time off work to go on holiday, but it just isn't possible.
If only _____.
- d) I said I'd go to the party and now I don't want to go at all.
I regret _____.
- e) I missed the train because I wasn't listening to the announcements!
I wish _____.
- f) I really should have revised more for the exam.
I regret _____.
- g) I left home so late that I missed the plane.
If only / late _____.

- h) I have some bad news for you, I'm afraid you've failed all our exams.
I regret _____.

Ex. 7 Circle the most appropriate verb form in the texts below.

A It's no good now saying I wish I bought / 'd bought one. I didn't and that's that. But it's really annoying to think that the one week I didn't buy a lottery ticket my lucky numbers came up. Oh, if only I'd stopped /stopped at the shop to buy one, but on Friday I was in such a rush that I forgot. You know, if I'd won I could lie / be lying on the beach somewhere now drink I drinking a tropical fruit cocktail.

B I wish you told / 'd told me that you were coming to Naples, we'd have / could have met up. I might have / 'd have taken you to the restaurant down the road - it's great. The food is excellent and you could have I should have tried some of our local dishes.

C I wish I could play / could have played tennis better, but I never seem to have enough time to practice. If only I didn't have to/hadn't had to work so much. I rarely get home from work before nine in the evening.

Ex. 8 Match the sentences in section A to the correct reply in section B.

A

1. I really am fed up with always putting my hand in my pocket.
2. We're running a bit late.
3. She is really tired and needs a break.
4. My car keeps breaking down.
5. His exam results are getting worse.
6. John really hasn't got the experience to run the project.
7. I don't agree with giving money to charities.

B

- a) I wish I could spend more time with him to help him with his studies.
- b) I'd rather we recruited someone with more of a background in this area.
- c) I think it's time we made a move.
- d) It's high time he learnt to play his own way.
- e) If only I had the money to buy a new one.
- f) I'd rather people volunteered some of their time.
- g) It's time she had a holiday.

Ex. 9 Correct the mistakes in these sentences.

1. I'm getting really unfit. I think it's time I join a gym.
2. She'd rather spent the weekend in a quiet country village than a busy city.
3. I wish I don't have to work today. I'm feeling really tired.
4. If only there wouldn't be so much bureaucracy involved in charity work perhaps then the charities would be able to get things done more quickly.
5. She wishes she can come with us on holiday but her work commitments are going to keep her at home.
6. I'd rather you not do that. It might be dangerous.
7. It really is high time the government would do something more concrete to help the homeless.
8. He said he'd rather I might give the presentation, as I've done it before and I know what's needed.
9. You are late again this morning. It's high time you were more punctual.
10. They would rather stay in this hotel a little bit longer. They haven't been to the circus yet.
11. If I had known him better I would have never dealt with him.

Ex. 10 Complete the following hypothetical statements with a short factual comment.

Example: I wish I weren't hard-up all the time but *I am*.

1. I wish I earned more but...
2. If only I had listened but...
3. If only I had a better typewriter but...
4. If only I hadn't been made redundant but...
5. I wish he wouldn't criticize me all the time but...
6. I wish we'd left earlier but...
7. I wish he would leave but...
8. If only you'd been more thorough but...
9. If only she'd had more time but...
10. They wish they knew the answer but...

Ex. 11 Open the brackets and translate the sentences, paying attention to *least; in case*.

1. It was a terrifying strangely impressive sight, and I was worried lest she (to faint).
2. But she was seized often with a panic of fear lest they (to be discovered).
3. They had been with me for some years now and I had been very worried in case one or other of them (to take) it into her head to get married.
4. She was terrified lest those horrid old men (to leave) him in the cold and he (to be humiliated).
5. He was afraid to go to bed, at night, afraid of the dark, afraid to sleep lest the Yankees (to come) and (to get) him.
6. I think Irene has been persuaded to make a marriage like this for fear lest she (to stay) all alone by herself.
7. I know he is in a difficult position with no one to help him. I worry lest he (to lose) himself.
8. She made such a fuss about my not coming in time and then, when I said I had forgotten to bring her the book I feared lest she (to strike) me.
9. If she learns about his conduct, it will cause a lot of trouble. I am afraid lest she (to ask) for a divorce.
10. I can't understand what it is all about, I think it dull, and I am anxious lest everybody (to forget) it very soon.
11. When I looked at his impassive face I began fearing lest he (to fall) ill.

Ex. 12 Translate the sentences into English, using *should* or *would*

1. Он предложил, чтобы собрание было назначено на пятницу.
2. Мне хотелось бы, чтобы ты с отцом не спорила.
3. С какой стати я стану помогать ему? Он просто ленится и все может сделать сам.
4. Доктор настаивал на том, чтобы они строго соблюдали диету.
5. Необходимо, чтобы каждый член клуба принял участие в работе своей секции.
6. Если она вдруг спросит вас об этом, скажите, что я ей обо всем напишу.
7. Я, пожалуй, почитаю с полчаса перед сном.
8. Я был бы вам обязан, если бы вы пришли в пять часов.
9. Что бы вы ответили, если бы вам предложили принять участие в этом концерте?
10. Какие места вы бы предпочли, если бы пошли на концерт?

Ex. 13 Translate the sentences into English

1. Как жаль, что я забыла книгу дома. Я бы прочла вам этот отрывок.
2. Я сожалею, что это случилось. Если бы вы там были, вы бы смогли это предотвратить.
3. Хотелось бы мне плавать так же хорошо, как вы.
4. «Жаль, что я уехал из Кейптауна», - подумал Ленни.
5. Мы пожалели, что не пошли вместе со всеми в театр.
6. Как жаль, что нам не сказали, что делать в таких случаях.
7. Хорошо бы кто-нибудь пришел к нам сегодня вечером.
8. Жаль, что было так холодно и мы не смогли погулять подольше.
9. Она вдруг почувствовала себя такой одинокой, что пожалела о том, что пришла туда одна.
10. Жаль, что вы не послушали совета врача. Вам было бы сейчас гораздо лучше.
11. Как жаль, что ты не интересуешься искусством. Мы могли бы пойти на выставку вместе.
12. Жаль, что вы не включили радио вовремя. Вы бы с удовольствием послушали эту передачу.

Ex. 14 Translate the following sentences into English.

1. Как жаль, что вы были так неосторожны. Этого не случилось бы, если бы вы послушались совета ваших друзей.
2. Если бы не луна, сейчас было бы совсем темно.
3. Он выглядел таким усталым, как будто давно не отдыхал.
4. Жаль, что вы не знаете его адреса, а то мы могли бы сходить к нему сегодня.
5. У меня такое чувство, как будто вы никогда и не уезжали.
6. Если бы я была на вашем месте, я вела бы себя более решительно в этой ситуации.
7. Вчера это можно было бы сделать, а сегодня это не имеет никакого смысла.
8. Жаль, что меня не было с вами, когда это случилось.
9. «Хотел бы я, чтобы мой портрет старел, а я всегда был молодым и красивым», - сказал Дориан.
10. На мой вопрос он ответил, что его товарищ не достал, билетов, а мог бы, если бы пришел в кассу на час раньше.
11. Если бы в воздухе не было кислорода, мы бы не могли дышать.
12. Если бы не вы, молодой человек, я бы мог погибнуть. Вы спасли мне жизнь.
13. Будь я на вашем месте, я бы опубликовал эти стихи.
14. Я уверен, он будет держаться так, словно он не чувствует никакой боли.
15. Как жаль, что я не спросила доктора, как принимать эти пилюли.
16. Он выглядит так, как будто он простудился.
17. Даже если бы он волновался перед спектаклем, он бы и виду не подал.
18. Она вела себя так спокойно, как будто ничего не случилось и все обстоит благополучно.
19. Я очень сожалею, что вы не успели осмотреть новые районы в нашем городе.
20. Старик говорил медленно, как будто с трудом подбирал слова.
21. Жаль, что я не специалист в этом деле и ничем не могу помочь вам.
22. Если бы вы использовали наглядные пособия на уроке, он был бы гораздо интереснее и содержательнее.
23. Даже если бы у вас не было температуры, вам лучше бы побыть дома сегодня,