Mood Expression for ESL Students

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The purpose of this article is to help ESL (English as a Second Language) students or English language learners (ELLs) to learn how to use moods or modes correctly when they study English. Based on the writer's more than twenty years' teaching experience for ESLs, he tried to summarize and describe the various use of moods through his extensive reading and review of different English grammar books, reference books, magazines, newspapers, books, and English dictionaries, etc., in order for ESL students or ELLs to further understand how to use moods properly in the English language. He also cited some incorrect use from his students. English has three moods, **the indicative, the imperative,** and **the subjunctive**. Mood is the form of the verb which shows the way the action, or state is expressed, or the form of the verb that a speaker or writer uses to indicate his or her attitude, showing whether he or she is making a statement, making a command or request, expressing a wish, or some unreal supposition. When he or she is making a command or request, it is said to be in the imperative mood. When he or she is making a statement, whether affirmative, negative, or interrogative, the verb is said to be in the indicative mood. When he or she is expressing a wish, a doubtful supposition, or an unreal supposition, it is said to be in the subjunctive mood. Mainly, there are three moods: **the indicative mood, the imperative mood, and the subjunctive mood**. In this article, however, great emphasis is placed on the use of the **subjunctive mood**, because ESL students find it difficult to use the subjunctive correctly, although it is not an important category in contemporary English, it is generally replaced by other constructions. Various examples are cited or given in this article so that learners can understand the use of moods, especially the use of the subjunctive mood. In this article, AmE means "American English," and BrE "British English." Asterisk * means "unacceptable." ?means "questionable."

1 The Indicative mood

The indicative mood (fact-mood) which is used for making statements, expressing actual events, facts, or an action is by far the most common of the three. It is used in *statements* of facts, in *questions* of facts, or in *exclamations* of facts.

1.1 Used in statement

We use the indicative mood in a statement (affirmative sentences):

We have completed the project successfully.
If you come tomorrow, I will show you what I bought last night.

1.2 Used in questions

We use the indicative mood in questions:

Will it do if we let you have an answer by Friday?
Did you go shopping last night?

1.3 Used in exclamation

We use the indicative mood in exclamation sentences:

How hot it is in Las Vegas in summer!
What a beautiful day (it is)!
How hard you work!

1.4 Indicative mood in the clauses introduced by *if*

We will deal with the conditional clauses introduced by *if* to show their indicative mood. The subordinate clauses express the condition and the main clauses something to happen depending on the condition from the subordinate clause (also see **1.6.1**).

1.4.1 Real conditional clauses

F.R. Palmer (1978) stated "… the one that predicates that if one event takes place, another will follow." In such cases, the subordinate clauses usually contain the present tense to express future meaning, and in the main clauses "a modal must occur" (F.R. Palmer, 1978). That is the normal way of using adverbial clauses of real condition with sentences containing'*ll* (the contraction of *will* or *shall*) used in main clauses and the present tense in the *if*-clause), where *will* or *shall* expresses pure futurity (*shall* used for the first persons, *I* or *we*). In this type (real present), what is said in the main clause is contingent – something may or may not happen assumed by the speaker to be a real possibility, e.g.

*If it **rains,** the sports meet **will be cancelled**.* (indicative mood)
*If you **press** the button, what **will happen**?* (indicative mood)
*If you **park** your car here, **lock** it and **leave** the key here*. (R.A. Close, 1975, p.59)
(indicative; imperative is used in the main clause.)

*If you **are to** succeed, we **must** all pull our weight.* (Alexander et al., 1977)
(Meaning "In order to succeed, we must all pull our weight.")

The present perfect tense or present progress tense is used in the *if-clause* to express action to take place by a certain (specific) future time. For example:

*I will return the book on Friday if I **have read** it.* (indicative mood)
*If we **have forgot** to do our homework, our teacher gets very angry.*
    (Alexander et al., 1977, p.207)
*The police won't take your car away if you **are sitting** in it.*

The present perfect tense used in the first two sentences above emphasizes the idea "if I have finished reading the book by Friday" and "if we come to class having forgotten it."

1.4.2 When(ever)-type

When the clause is introduced by *if,* the meaning of such an *if*-clause is tantamount to that of the clause introduced by *when* or *whenever*. F.R Palmer (1978) stated "*If* may have a meaning close to *whenever* – to link two habitual actions." In such cases, the present tense or past tense is used in both subordinate clauses and main clauses. We usually do not use modal auxiliary verbs such as **will** or **shall** in the main clause, because something happens without time restriction or depending on each other. "We can freely change tenses or phase" (F.R. Palmer, 1978). In such sentences, both present tenses (or past tenses) are used. Some grammarians (Sinclair, John, et al., 2017) called it the **zero conditional.** For example:

*Oil **floats** if you **pour** it on water.*
*If I **drop** a stone in water, it **sinks***. (Alexander et al., 1977, p.207)
*Water **boils** if you **heat** it to 100°C.*
*If it **rains** a lot, the roads **get** muddy.*
*If you **heat** the ice, it **turns** to water.*
*If we **mix** red with yellow, we **get** orange.*
*If methane **is cooled** and **compressed**, it **liquefies***.
*If you **go** to the movies, what kind of movie **do** you **prefer** to see?*
*We **stay** in school if it **rains***.
*If it **has rained** in the deserts, the flowers **blossom***.
*If it **rained**, I **went** by car.*
*If Marlowe **was** here, he**'s** now in the garden.*
*If she **said** that, she **is** a fool.*
*If he **said** that, he **was** stupid.*

Alexander et al. (1977) pointed out that "PRESENT TENSE (is used) in both clauses; *if* (is) replaceable by *when* in this case. PAST TENSE is in both CLAUSE" in "We stay in school if it rains" and "If it was too cold, we stayed indoors." In such a case, *if* can be replaced by *when* or *sometimes*. R.A. Close (1975) called this type of conditional clause "Neutral Type" because the same tenses are used in both clauses. It is also noted that the conditional clauses of such kinds are usually not restricted by the time reference and the tense in both clauses, as in

> *If/When the wind **blows** from the west, that room **is** very cold.*
> *Sometimes/when the wind **blows** from the west, that room **is** very cold.*
> *If/When the wind **blew** from the west, he **moved** into the other room.*
> *If you never **have** a cold, you**'re** very lucky.*
> (The *If*-clause could be replaced by *in that case* above.)

There is no problem if *will* is added to the main clauses in the above sentences.
More examples:

> *If lightning **flashes**, thunder **will** follow (= follows).*
> *If you **drop** a stone in water, it **will** sink.*

Note that participles can be used in the *unless*-clause or *if*-clause. For example:

> If/*Unless (you are) **arriving** by coach, please let the secretary know*. (R. A. Close, 1977)
> *I won't come unless (I am) **invited** properly*. (R. A. Close, 1977, p.95)

Note that **being + past participles** cannot be used in the clauses introduced by *if* or *unless.* For example:

> **I won't come unless **being invited***. (incorrect)
> But: I won't come unless invited.
> **I will be happy to come to your house if **being invited***. (incorrect)
> But: I will be happy to come to your house if invited.

Note when a present participle, a past participle, a preposition phrase, or an adjective can be used after *if*, it become a verbless clause. For example:

> ***If in trouble***, *please ask me and I can help you*. (*In trouble* is a prepositional phrase.)
> = If you are in trouble, please ask me and I can help you.
> ***If in doubt**, ask at your local library*. (*In doubt* is a prepositional phrase.)
> ***If (it is) possible**, the dog should be washed every day*. (*Possible* is an adjective.)
> *Please fill in the blanks with proper words **if necessary**.* (*Necessary* is an adjective.)

= Please fill in the blanks with proper words if it is necessary.

*Please leave early **if possible**. (Possible is an adjective.)*

= Please leave early if (it is) possible.

*I won't attend the party **unless invited** (= unless I am invited).*

*Andy will come to the party **if asked** (= if he is asked).*

***If/Unless (you are) arriving by coach**, please let the secretary know*. (R.A. Close, 1973)

(*Arriving* is a present participle.)

All sentences described above are indicative mood.

1.5 Assume, assuming that, etc

Besides the **if**-clause being used to introduce the adverbial clause of real condition, there are other constructions to introduce adverbial clauses of real condition by subordinators such as ***assuming (that), given (that), providing (that), provided (that), suppose**, **supposing**, **with the proviso that, on condition (that)**, **so/as long as***, and some prepositions (e.g. **without**) and prepositional phrases (e.g. **in case**, **in case of**, **in the event of, in the absence of, as/so long as, etc**.) and conjunct (e.g. **otherwise**, **unless** = "if …not" or "except on condition that"), etc. For example:

*   ***In the absence of** the manager (= If/While the manager is away), I shall be in charge.*
*   ***In case** it rains, we won't be able to go there on foot.*
*   ***In case of** fire, press the button.*
*   ***In the event of his death**, she will inherit the money.*
*   *You can go out **as/so long as** you promise to be back before ten.*
*   ***So long as** you persist in your old ways, I cannot give you any money.*
*   *Meiqin says she'll accept your offer **on condition that** you are sincere.*
*   *You can go out **on condition that** you wear a face mask.*
*   *I will let you drive **on condition (that)** you have a valid license.* (R. A. Close, 1975)
*   *= I will let you drive **provided (that)/providing (that)/so long as/as long as** you have a valid license.*
*   ***Given (that)** the voters approve the funds, we'll have a new park in our town.*
*   ***If only** it clears up, we'll go. (If only is more emphatic than if in meaning.)*
*   ***Providing (that)** there is no opposition, we shall hold the meeting here.*
*   ***Provided (that)** there is no opposition (= only if there is no opposition), we shall hold the meeting here.* (Procter et al., 1978).
*   *Sure you can borrow the car, **providing** you get it back to me before 10 o'clock.*
*   *I don't mind Guy coming with us, **provided** he pays for his own meals.* (Hornby, 1997)
*   ***Suppose*/*Supposing(that)** the plane doesn't arrive on time, we'll have to postpone the meeting.*

Unless you tell him yourself, he'll lose faith in you completely.
*You won't catch the plane **unless** you hurry up* (= if you don't hurry up).
*There will be a picnic, **unless** it rains* (= if it does not rain).

Normally, **on condition (that)** requires a human agent subject while the rest can be animate or an inanimate subject:

*The room always keeps cool **as long as** the AC is working properly.*

1.6 Implicational conditionals

In implicational conditionals, what is stated in the main clause depends on what is stated/shown in the subordinate clauses. A simple present/past tense is usually used in the subordinate clause and any tense sequence is possible in such sentences in the main clauses on the basis of their exact meaning intended and hypotheses and the speaker's point of view. F.R. Palmer (1978) stated "The condition is a simple implication – the truth of the one clause following from the truth of the other." "This also accounts for the jocular type of sentence." F.R. Palmer (1978) pointed out "With the implication type there is no restriction whatever on any kind of tenses or time marking. A statement relating to any time can be made to imply a statement relating to other time – not merely past and past or present and present." The following examples illustrate something of the variety and mixture of time and tense forms permitted, e.g.:

*If John **told** you that last night, he **was** lying.*
(Simple past + Simple past) (Leech, 1978)
*If they **left** at nine, they **will** certainly be home by midnight.*
(Simple Past + will "future") (Leech, 1978)
*If he **is** here, he **is** in the garden.*
(= If it is true that he is here, then he is in the garden.)
*If he *were* here, he is in the garden.
But: If he *were* here, he'd be in the garden (subjunctive mood).
*If he **acts** like that, he **is** a fool.*
(= If it is true that he should act like that, then I am right when I say that he is a fool.)
*It **was** certainly my brother you saw, if he **had** a large black dog with him.*
(=If it is true that he had, …) (Alexander et al., 1977)
*If that **was** what he told you, he **was** telling lies.*
*If Tom **broke** his leg in the last match, he **won't** play again this season.*
(=If it is true that he did, …) (Alexander, et al 1977)
*If he **said** that, he **must be** a fool.*
*If you **saw** him yourself, surely you **can tell** us what he looks like.*
(= If, as you say, you did see him, …)
*If you **spent** the night on the train, you probably **need** a rest.*

*If he **sent** the letter off on Friday, why **hasn't** it **arrived** by now?* (Alexander et al., 1977)
(=If it is true that he sent it on Friday, …)
*If Andy **is** a clever boy, I've **underestimated** him.*
*If Andy **has** a tape recorder, probably he **borrowed** it from his grandpa.*
If he's the Prime Minister, I'm a Dutchman. (jocular)
If he's Marconi, I'm Einstein. (jocular)

1.6.1 Indicative mood in real conditional clauses

When **will** expresses pure futurity, it is not used in the *if-* clause, e.g. "*If she comes* (*If she will come*) *next Monday, what shall we do*?" But when **will/would** expresses willingness, and means "insist," or "we can use *will* in the *if*-clause for a result" (Eastwood, 2002), and **won't** (= refuse to), they may occur in the *if*-clause. **Will** is stressed in speech. For example:

*If you'll **help** me/If you'll **be** so kind as to help me, we **can finish** by five.*
*If it **will make** any difference, I'll gladly lend you some money.* (R. Quirk, et al., 1972)
*If it **does/will do** me more good, I'll **take** a different medicine.* (Eastwood, 2002)
*If you'**d help** me/If you'**d be** so kind as to help me, we **could finish** by five.*
*If you '**will go*** (If you insist on going) *without telling me first, I **won't protect** you.*
*(**Will** is always stressed.)*
*If he '**would bet*** (If he insisted on betting) *on horse-races in '**spite** of your warning, he '**deserved** to lose money.* (*Would, spite,* and *deserved* are always stressed.) (Hornby 1977)
*If he **won't arrive** before nine, there's no point in ordering dinner for him.*
*If you **won't** (= refuse to) help us, all our plans **will be ruined**.* (R. Quirk, et al., 1972)

1.6.2 *Should* used in the *if*-clause to indicate real conditional

In the *if*-clause **should** is used in the adverbial clauses of real condition not to express suppositions contrary to anticipation, but uncertainty (emphasizing that something might or might not happen). That is, a more formal way of talking about a possible future situation is to use **should** in the conditional clause. They may be replaced by the present tense to become real conditional, they are not subjunctive mood (also see **3.5**). For example:

*If it **should** rain again, the flowers will bloom.* (indicative)
*If the wound **should** become inflamed, do not hesitate to call me.* (Hornby, 1997)
*If that **should** happen, you will be blamed.*
*If **he should be** hard working, he **can fulfil** the plan on time.*
*If he **should know** it, he **will tell** us.*

When **should** is used in such sentences, Leech (1978) pointed out that "The effect of the theoretical *should* is to make the condition slightly more tentative and 'academic' than it would

be with the ordinary Present Tense." Huang (1979) pointed out that "Here, we may, if we so desire, use the modal verb 'should' instead without any practical difference of meaning… The sentence with 'should' is still indicative, of course. It should not have been called subjunctive, as it usually has." R.A. Close (1975) pointed out that "The 'something that may happen' is itself dependent on chance or some other unpredictable factor." They may be replaced by the present tense *is* and *knows* respectively for *If **he is** hard working, he **can fulfil** the plan on time* and *If he **knows** it, he **will tell** us.* The present tense increases the possibility of the action or event. In formal style, *should I (we, you, etc.)* is used (also see the subject-verb inversion in **3.9**) instead of *if I (we, you, etc.) should …, etc.* For example:

> **Should** *I be free tomorrow, I will come.*
> (=If I should be free tomorrow, I will come.)
> **Should** *you see Andy, tell him I am quite well.*
> (= If you should see Andy, tell him I am quite well.)
> **Should** *you be interested, I have a book on the subject you might like to see.*
> (Procter et al., (1978)

1.6.3 *Should* **or a subjunctive present tense used in the** *that***-clause**

1.6.3.1 To express a command, order, request, demand or suggestion

We use *should* after such verbs (when followed by the *that*-clause) as ***advise, ask, commend, decree, demand, desire, insist, move, order, propose, recommend, require, request, suggest, urge, etc.,*** and their corresponding nouns when they are used in a predicative clause or followed by an appositional clause. When *should* is omitted (typically AmE) in the *that*-clause, the verb in the clause is a subjunctive verb (subjunctive present tense), without inflexion, if the subject is a third person singular in the clause or when the verb in the main clause has a past tense:

> *I **insist** that Meiqin **should** do her work alone.*
> *I **demand** that Andy **should** study hard.*
> *I **request** that Sandy **(should) go** alone.*
> *I **require** that he **should go**.*
> *I **demand** that he **should be released**.*
> (Normal, AmE and BrE, but chiefly BrE with *should*, and regarded as putative *should*.)
> *Congress **has voted/decided/decreed/insisted** that the present law **continue** to operate.*
> (*Should* which is omitted is formal.)
> *I **insist** that Meiqin **do** it by herself.* (*Should* is omitted in the clause.)
> *I **demand** that Andy **get up** early tomorrow*. (*Should* is omitted.)
> *We **desire** that this privilege **be** extended to others.*
> (*Should* is omitted. Traditionally it is called subjunctive, formal and typical of official style, chiefly AmE)

*We **ask** that the individual citizen **watch** closely any developments in pandemic outbreaks.*
= We ask the individual citizen to watch closely any developments in pandemic outbreaks
*The report **recommends** that he **face** the tribunal.* (formal, mainly AmE)
(Traditionally called subjunctive, formal and typical of official style, chiefly AmE)
*I **request** that she **go** alone*. (subjunctive verb, R. Quirk et al., 1972)
(Traditionally called subjunctive, formal and typical of official style, chiefly AmE without *should*)
Cf. I **required** that he **goes.** (informal, mainly BrE, indicative)
*I **demand** that he **be released***.
(Traditionally called subjunctive, formal and typical of official style, chiefly AmE)

In spite of the main verbs (i.e. *commanded, ordered*, *etc.*) in past tense forms, subjunctive present verb is still used in the *that*-clause, such as:

*I **required** that Andy **go***. (subjunctive verb)
*Jones **suggested** that Smith **show** this to his wife.* (Schibsbye, 1979)
*They **suggested** that Smith **be** dropped from the team.* (chiefly AmE, Leech, 1974)
*He **ordered** that the medicines **be sent** by special plane.* (*Should* is omitted.)
*We **commanded** / **ordered** / **asked** / **requested** / **demanded** / **suggested** / **proposed** / **recommended** that he **come** early.*

It is to be noted that *should* is omitted in the above sentences. Traditionally it is called subjunctive (formal and typical of official style, chiefly AmE). The main verbs *command, order, ask, request, demand, suggest, propose, recommend, etc.,* in the above sentence are all in past tenses, but the subjunctive preset tense is still used in the *that*-clause. A subjunctive present tense is also used (after *should* is omitted) in the clause introduced by the nouns from their corresponding verbs. They are usually predicative clauses or appositional clauses. For example:

*We **intend**/Our **intention** is that this Bill **should** become law by the end of the year*.
(Hornby, 1977)
*Our **wish** was that he **leave** (not *left*) this city at once.* (L.X.H, 1982)
*It was **our wish** that he (should) **leave** the city at once.*
*It is my ardent **wish** that he **come** at once.* (Schibsbye, 1979)
It is noted that "that he come at once" above is an appositional clause to the noun ***wish***.)
*There was a **suggestion** that the chairman **be** removed from the club.* (formal)
*My **suggestion** is (that) you **should contact** her as soon as possible.*
(AmE and BrE, but chiefly BrE with *should*)
*He gave **orders**/gave **the command**/made **the suggestion**/made **a request** that the prisoners (**should**) **be set** free.* (Hornby, 1977)

*He issued the **orders** that the work **be** done at once*. (*Should* is omitted.)
(*That*-clause is an appositive clause.)
*What I **advise** is that he **keep** regular hours*. (*Should* is omitted in the predicative clause)
*Our **intention** is that this Bill **should** become law by the end of the year*. (Hornby 1977)

It is to be noted that ***that*** can be omitted in informal English from the ***that***-clause in such sentences. At the same time, the omission of ***should*** in such sentences is quite common in American English (as mentioned before). In British usage, however, the preference is the model form with *should* instead. This use is usually regarded as a remnant of the subjunctive present tense. Since the subjunctive present tense is used without inflexion, even in a clause following a main clause, where a verb in the past tense is used as seen above (i.e., *He **ordered** that the medicines **be sent** by special plane*.), there is reason to suggest that the American usage should be regarded as an ellipsis, where the modal verb ***should*** is understood. As a whole, the subjunctive present form is being replaced by the indicative present form (i.e. "*We **propose/recommend** that Andy **goes/is dismissed**.*"), or by a modal verb. It's no longer suitable in ordinary use, though still common in American usage, but this is in one respect only, as we have seen above. Let's summarize these verbs referring to imagined action in the future, as in

a. We propose/recommend that Meiqin should come. (normal use)
b. We propose/recommend that Meiqin comes. (informal)
c. We propose/recommend that Meiqin come. (formal and typical of official style, especially AmE)
d. *We **commanded / ordered / asked / requested / demanded / suggested / proposed / recommended** that he **come** early.* (chiefly AmE)

1.6.3.2 In some adjectives, past participles or nouns followed by *that*-clause

In the ***that***-clause (expressing some element of wish or intention) postmodifying adjective phrases complement or noun phrases may have subjunctive verbs (expressing theoretical meaning with ***should***), as in "*I am insistent that he **be** ready*" (formal or archaic) and "*It is expedient that he **arrive** by tomorrow*." There is little difference between "*It's essential that he **recognize** his faults*" and "*It's essential that he **should** recognize his faults.*" Some adjectives of this type are ***appropriate, advisable, compulsory, crucial, desirable, essential, fitting, imperative, important, inadvisable, necessary, obligatory, preferable, proper, vital, etc.*** For example**:**

*It is **essential/necessary/important/imperative** that we **should hold** the meeting immediately.*
*It is **necessary** that the work (**should**) **be done** at once.*
*It is **strange** that she **should have said** so.*
*I am **surprised** that Andy **should not realize** his own mistakes.*

*It's **demanded/decided/desired/insisted/ordered/requested/suggested** that we **should** leave.*
*It's **important** that Meiqin **should arrive** on time*. (chiefly BrE)
Cf. It is important for her to arrive on time. (less formal)
*It is **right/better/essential/important/necessary/wrong** that he (**should**) be punished.*
*It's **necessary** that he **go** there himself*. (formal, chiefly AmE)
*It is **important** that they **be** aware of the provisions of the act*. (formal, chiefly AmE)
*I am **insistent** that he **be** ready* (formal). (R. Quirk et al., 1972)
*It is **proposed** that the Assembly **elect** a new Committee*. (Leech, 1978)
*We **regret/are sorry** that you **should feel** obliged to resign.*
*It is a **good thing** that he **recognize** his fault (rare, archaic).* (Leech, 1978)
*It is a **great pity** that Andy **should be** so careless.* (chiefly BrE)
*There has been a **proposal** that Michael **be dismissed**.* (Hornby, 1977)

The use of *should* above is to emphasize the strangeness, surprise or feeling of pity, etc., but the indicative mood may be used in the subordinate clauses, introduced by the *that*-clause after verbs and adjectives, expressing personal feelings, judgement, etc. Traditionally, such usage with *should* in the *that*-clauses is regarded as the use of subjunctive mood, but Huang (1979) pointed that "…truly they are indicative." Hornby (1977, p.80) pointed that "…the use of the subjunctive, formal style (more often in American than in British English) and the use, in informal style, of *should* and an infinitive." Quirk et al. (1972) pointed that "Putative **should** occurs after expressions of emotion: sorrow, joy, displeasure, surprise, wonder, etc." For example:

*I am sorry that he **should** come* (formal).
*It's a pity that he **should** resign.*

That-clauses postmodifying adjective phrases complement (including some participles) may have putative **should** in the *that*-clauses. These adjective are ***appropriate, admirable, awkward, commendable, curious, deplorable, despicable, disastrous, dreadful, extraordinary, fitting, fortunate, important, improper, inconceivable, irrational, lamentable, logical, odd, peculiar, proper, queer, regrettable, remarkable, sad, tragic, incomprehensible, understandable, unjustifiable, etc.*** Participles: ***alarming, annoying, depressing, disappointing, disconnecting, embarrassing, frightening, irritating, perplexing, pleasing, shocking, surprising, upsetting, etc.*** The ***should** + **do*** can be followed from these adjectives, but the omission of *should* in some of the sentences above often occurs more in AmE (very formal) than in BrE (***should*** is often used), or use the normal form of the verb e.g. "*I insist that he **goes** to the party*." The use of ***should*** suggests tentative or a neutral idea rather than a fact. This use of ***should*** is called ***putative***. For example, in "*I **demand** that he **should be released**,*" we don't know whether or not *he will be released*. When ***should*** is used in such cases, ***that*** is usually retained. Rayevska (1976) provided

the following example: "*it is strange that he exercised* (or *has exercised) so great influence."* This "merely states the fact, whereas: *It is strange that he should exercise* (or ***should have exercised) so great influence*** lays more stress on the strangeness of the action." Similarly: *"It is strange that **he should behave like that"*** is synonymous with *"It is strange that he behaves like that."* Leech (1978) pointed out that when "*should* is used, it has theoretical meaning while *should* is not used, it is factual meaning."

For example:

Factual meaning: *It's a good thing that he **recognizes** his faults.*
Theoretical meaning: *It's a good thing that he **should recognize** his faults.*
        *It's a good thing that he **recognize** his faults.*
        *It's a good thing **for him to recognize** his faults.*

1.6.4 *Be going to do* used in *if*-clause or main clause

When ***is/am/are going to*** + infinitive is used, both (*if*-clause or main clause) indicate pure futurity whether the subjects are a person or not a person. They are real conditional clauses. Moreover, ***is/am/are going to*** + infinitive is used to indicate a speaker's personal reaction to what is said in the ***if***-clause and the subject of the ***if***-clause is usually a person:

*If you**'re going** to the supermarket, please **buy** a dozen of eggs for me.*
If it ***is going*** *to rain, I'll take an umbrella.* (Alexander et al., 1977)
*If he **comes**, **I'm going to** leave.* (indicating a threat) (F. R. Palmer, 1978)
*If that naughty boy **comes**, there's **going to** be trouble.* (indicating an inevitable disaster)
*If you**'re practicing** on the drums, **I'm going** out.* (threat)
*Well, if your friends **left** half an hour ago, they **aren't going to get** to Las Vegas at noon.*

2 The imperative mood

The imperative mood (*will*-mood) always refers to the future and is used for giving commands and expressing *advice*, *command, order, request, one's will, etc*. It has only one simple form (i.e. the plain root form of the verb without any inflexion) for the second person singular or plural. ***You*** is not usually used in the imperative sentence. When we say, *open it*, we mean that *you* should open it. Therefore the subject of the imperative is in most case "**you**" with present tense verbs, but not past tense. For example, *(You) give him some water! *(We) give him some water! *Gave him some water!* The use of the imperative with the state verbs is restricted (also see **2.5**). For example, **Know the answer!* ***Please*** can be used before or after, e.g., ***Please*** *eat up your dinner. Close the door, **please***, and usually a comma is needed when *please* is placed at the end. Modal auxiliaries do not occur in the imperative sentence, i.e. **Will open the door*.

2.1 Used to express command

The imperative mood is used to give command or order:

Give him what help you can.
Please come in!
Get out here, please!
Be nice to your mother!
Get out!
Go to hell!
Good Lord!
Try and get a torch or a light, it's terribly dark down here.
Bring an umbrella with you in case (=if) it should rain. (*Should* is used in formal style.)
Come and see me whenever you feel depressed. (Sinclair, John, et al., 2017)

Because the implied subject is *you*, the reflexive pronoun should be *yourself*; therefore "*Behave himself/herself*" are not acceptable (also see **2.5**), e.g.:

Behave yourselves, everybody! (R. Quirk et al., 1972)
Behave yourself!
*Behave himself!
Everyone behave themselves/yourselves.

Very rarely the progressive tense or passive voice *be* is found in imperative sentences:

*Be **preparing** the dinner when he comes in.* (R. Quirk et al., 1972)
*Be **reading** when I come in!* (F.R. Palmer, 1978)
*Do be **reading** when I come in!*
*Be **prepared**!*
*Be **dressed**!*
*Be **seated**, please!*
*Be **assured** by me.*
Be being dressed. (possible, but rare)
Be being taken. (possible, but rare)

2.2 Do, don't

The emphatic imperative is formed with the help of the auxiliary verb *do*:

***Do come** tomorrow!*
***Do be** silent!*

Do be quiet!
Do be seated!
Do have some more sherry.
Do let's go to the beach.
Do have more ice cream!
Do be reading when I arrive. (F.R. Palmer, 1978)
Do be reading when I come in!
Do be taking. (*Do* is stressed.)
Do be taken. (R. F. Palmer, 1978). (*Do* is stressed.)

In such cases, **do** (always stressed) used with an affirmative imperative expresses not only emphatic imperative but also an urgent request. R. Quirk., et al. (1972) said these imperatives are "persuasive or insistent imperative." The addition of "**Don't**" (always stressed) changes a command into a prohibition or a negative command. **You** is occasionally used after **don't** for emphasis. For example:

Don't make so much noise.
Don't be reading when I come in!
Don't make a noise, will you? (The tag has a falling tone – R. Quirk et al., 1972)
Do not make so much noise. (formal)
Don't be silly. (Not *He does be silly.)
Don't be taken.
Don't you go telling Mother about it!
*She has been quite a success, and **don't** you forget it!* (Rayevska, 1976)
Don't you open the door.
Do not you open the door. (R. Quirk et al., 1972)
Cf. You open the door.
Do not open the door!
Don't anyone open the door.
Do not anyone open the door.
Cf. Someone open the door. (imperative)
Don't come unless I call you (=Don't come if I do not call you).
Why don't you be careful? (*Why don't you* construction is found in the quasi-imperative.)

F. R. Palmer (1978, p.154) pointed out that "But there is a difference. **Be** is used to refer only to temporary states" in *If you be quick, you'll see them* and *If you don't be quick, you'll miss them*. **Don't be** or **Be** is only used in such cases, so we don't say ***He doesn't be sad*, *Does he be sad?*** or **He does be sad*.

2.3 Have, let

We use *have* or *let* in the sentences with the first and third person as objects:

***Have** the boy take it away!*
***Have** the driver bring the car round at 4. (Hornby, 1994)*
***Let's help** each other.*
***Let him do** it by himself.*
*****Let** you have a book.* (There are no 2nd person imperatives with *let*.)
*Somebody **let** me out*. (informal)
Let somebody else attempt this task. (formal) – Leech et al., 1974)
*Let us go, **will you**?*
Let me go.
Let the work be done immediately.
Do let's go. (emphasis)
*Let's **not** ask him for help.* (AmE/BrE)
Don't let the dog out (of the room).
Don't let's ask him for help. (informal, BrE)
*Let's **don't** ask about the missing books.*
(AmE, informal, Sinclair, John, et al., 2017)
Don't let anyone come in.

It is noted that although *let's* is a contraction of *let us*, they are not equal in meaning. *Let's* suggests an action by the speaker and the hearer and conveys the idea of suggestion, while the *let* in *let us* may have the meaning of *allow* or *permit*. The *let* in *Let us go, will you?* has the meaning, *allow* or *permit*. In such a case, we don't use the common abbreviated form, i.e. *let's*. But *Let's go, shall we?* We usually use *not* after the 1st person pronouns, e.g. "*Let's/Let us **not** do it.*"

2.4 And, or

We use **and** or **or** to express a condition in compound sentences:

*Make haste **and** you will accomplish the work on time.*
(=If you make haste, you will accomplish the work on time.)
*Study hard **and** make progress every day.*
(=If you study hard, you will make progress every day.)
*Drop that, **and** I'll kill you.* (R.A. Close, 1975)
= If you drop that I'll kill you.
*Study hard **or** you will fail short of the expectation of the people.*
(= If you do not study hard, you will fail short of the expectation of the people.)
*Don't move, **or** you will be killed!* (= If you move, you will be killed.)
*Drop that, **or** I'll kill you.* (R.A. Close, 1975)
= If you don't drop that I'll kill you.

2.5 Please, will you

The use of *please* or *will you* or *won't you* or *will you please* with the imperative either at the beginning or at the end of, the sentence, implies more politeness - a more tactful form of request if one changes the command into a question or a statement:

> *Leave the door open*, *please*. (Also, to say, "*Please* leave the door open.")
> *Will you* *have a cup of tea*, *please?*
> *Have a cup of tea*, *will you?*
> *Bring me that book*, *will you?*
> *Let us go*, *will you?*
> *Come in and take a seat*, *will you please?*
> *Will you please* come in and take a seat?

Note that *shall we?* is added to such an imperative sentence introduced by *let's*:

> *Let's go*, *shall we?*
> But: *Let us go*, *will you?* (Here *let* means *allow*.)

The addition of **won't you** changes the imperative into an invitation. Such as:

> *Come in,* *won't you?*
> *Have a cup of tea,* *won't you?*

Note that besides *won't you*, other tag questions heard are *can you? can't you?* and *why*-question in *why don't you*. For example:

> *Take a break,* *why don't you?*
> *Why don't* you be careful!
> *Why don't you* contact Andy – he may be able to help?

It is noted that it is unnecessary to add the subject "*you*" in the imperative sentence (as mentioned previously), but when commands are given to more than one person, it should be expressed. A 3rd person subject is also possible. The indefinite pronouns such as *everybody, somebody,* or *someone*, may be placed either before or after. For example:

> *You* clean the corridor, *Andy, and* *you girls* clean the room in here.
> *You* come here, *Andy, and* *you* go over there, Meiqin.
> *You* open the door.
> *Don't you* open the door. (NOT: *Do not you* open the door.)
> *I don't know how to do it – Sandy,* *you* go!
> *Somebody* open this door. (imperative)

Someone open the door! (imperative)
Everyone behave themselves/yourselves! (imperative)
Everybody shut their eyes. (R. Quirk et al., 1972, p.403)
Behave yourselves, ***everybody!***
*Behave himself/herself!
Somebody go and do it. (imperative)
Go ***somebody!***
Don't anyone open the door. (NOT: **Do not anyone* open the door.)
Somebody lend me a hand. (imperative)
Cf. ***Somebody*** lends me a hand. (indicative)

Evens et al. (1957) pointed out that "… the imperative is third person form with the subject *somebody*. Others hold that there is still an unexpected ***you*** here, that somebody here means *you*. This is a purely theoretical question and makes no difference in practice." The use of ***you*** may be for emphasis or express some emotion of annoyance, impatience, strong irritation, etc. These commands are usually admonitory or "finger-wagging" in tone (R. Quirk et al., 1972). Here ***you*** is always stressed, whereas in statements it is not stressed. The use of ***you*** in such a case is more forceful. Thus:

'***You*** mind your own business! (imperative)
'***You*** shut up! (imperative)
'***You*** be quiet! (imperative)
 '***You*** be careful. (imperative)
'***You*** go ahead! (imperative)
 It'll never work – '***You*** wait and see! (imperative)
 '***You*** be careful what you're saying. (imperative)
 Cf. *You put it down.* (statement)

Because of finger-wagging in tone, we do not use ***please*** for the above sentences, so we usually do not say (unless it is sarcastic) "*Please, you be quiet! or You be quiet, please!*" ***You*** is occasionally used after ***don't*** for emphasis as mentioned previously. For example:
Don't *you forget it.*
Don't *you talk to me like that!*
Don't *you open the door.* (Not *Do not you open the door.) (R. Quirk et al., 1972)
Cf. You open the door.

Note that state verbs are not usually used in imperative sentences unless it is used in special contexts or specific contents, e.g. *Know the answer by tomorrow*! (= Get to know or learn to know …). Also, negative commands are seldom followed by tags. The only tag question operator

seems to be possible with the positive auxiliary verb, *will*, with the falling tone for the tag, e.g. *Don't close the door*, *will you?*

3   The subjunctive mood

In English, **the subjunctive mood** is fairly uncommon (especially in comparison with other languages such as French and Spanish), mainly because most of the functions of the subjunctive are covered by modal verbs such as *might*, *could*, *should,* and *would*, *etc*. In English, the subjunctive is often indistinguishable from the ordinary **indicative mood** since its form in most contexts is identical. It is distinctive only in the third person singular, where the normal indicative *-s* ending is absent e.g. *The report recommends that he face the tribunal*, where *he face* rather than *he faces,* and in the verb "to be" (*I were* rather than *I was*), and *they be* rather than *they are* in "*It is important that they be aware of the provisions of the act*." Here the verbs *face* and *be* are subjunctive present tense or subjunctive verb. In modern English, the subjunctive mood still exits but is regarded in many contexts as optional. The use of the subjunctive tends to convey a more formal tone, but there are few people who would regard its absence as wrong. Today, it survives mostly in fixed expressions, as in *be that as it may*; *far be it from me*; *as it were* (= so to speak); *lest we forget*; *God help you*; *perish the thought*; and *come what may*, *etc*. Quirk R., et al. (1972) pointed out that "The subjunctive is not an important category in contemporary English and is normally replaced by other constructions." It is still necessary to explore the use of the subjunctive mood for the sake of ESL students or ELLs, whose native language is not English. They may feel it difficult to use the subjunctive correctly when they speak or write English. Sometimes they find it difficult to distinguish between the subjunctive mood and the indicative mood. If they do not understand the use of the subjunctive, they might misunderstand the meaning of what is written or spoken. Basically, ESL students should understand how to use the following subjunctive mood (3.1, 3.2, and 3.3). They are the fundamental elements of how to use it introduced by *if*-clauses. Much detail is described of how to use **the subjunctive mood** in the following sections.

3.1 Unreal present (contrary to the present fact)

"*If you broke your leg today, you couldn't play again this season,*" said Marlowe.
(Contrary to the present fact: I haven't broken my leg; I can play again this season.)
If I were rich, I would be living in a large house now.
(Contrary to the present fact: I am not rich, so I am living in a small house now.)

3.2 Unreal future (contrary to the future fact or doubtful supposition)

If it rained tomorrow, Andy would stay at home.
(Contrary to the future fact: It won't rain tomorrow according to the weather forecast, so Andy won't stay at home.)

*If Marlowe **visited** me next week, he **would help** me plant these apple trees.*
(Marlowe won't visit me next week, so he won't help me plant these apple trees.)

3.3 Unreal past (contrary to the past fact)

*If you **had told** me about her recent incident early, I **wouldn't have visited** her.*
(Contrary to the past fact: You didn't tell me about her recent incident, so I visited her.)
*If I **could have helped** you with your project, I **would have been happy** to do so.*
(Contrary to the past fact: I was not able to help you.)

The subjunctive mood (thought-mood), as it is currently used, expresses a hypothetical meaning and states suppositions, *i.e.*, to suppose something unreal/untrue, imaginary, impossible, or otherwise contrary to facts (present, past, or possible future as seen above). Therefore, it is used to express thoughts (as distinguished from facts). It expresses wishes, doubts, suggestions, suppositions, imagination, uncertainty, unlikeliness, or something contrary to past facts or present facts or possible future facts. In the main sentence of unreal conditional statements **should** is used in the 1st persons (*I/we*), **would** in the 2nd and 3rd person, but sometimes **would** is also used in the 1st persons: *I **would** not have been surprised if he had talked to her*. The types of unreal past, unreal present, and unreal future are called **subjunctive mood**, which is described in the following sections.

3.4 *If* + past tense, *should/would… + do* form

The subjunctive mood is frequently used in an unreal conditional clause which expresses a supposition either doubtful or contrary to the fact. The simple past tense is used in the *if-clause* and *should/would …+ do* form is used in the main clause (see the following table):

In the Subordinate Clause (*if-clause*)	In the Main (or Result) Clause
the simple past tense	*should/would …+ do* form

3.4.1 Doubtful supposition or contrary to the present fact or possible future fact

We use a simple past tense in the *if*-clause and *should/would + do* in the main clause to express doubtful supposition or something that may be contrary to the present fact or future fact:

*If I **were** you, I **should/would study** much harder.*
(The fact is: I am not you. It is contrary to the present fact.)
*If he **were** here now, he **would** not let the matter end this way.*
(The fact is: He is not here now. It is contrary to the present fact.)
*If I **were/was** rich, I **would** buy a house.* (*Was* in "**If I was**" is considered informal.)

(The fact is: I'm not rich. It is contrary to the present fact.)

*What **would** you do if you **were** all alone on a desert island?*

*If you **were** a bird, you **could fly**.* (The fact is: I am not a bird, so I cannot fly.)

*If she **were/was** to do something like this tomorrow, we**'d** be unhappy.*

(The fact is: She won't do something like this. It is contrary to the future fact. The use of *was* is considered informal.)

*How nice it **would be** if Andy **were** there now*!

(The fact is: Andy is not there now – It is contrary to the present fact.)

*If you/he/she/I **were** going to attend the party, Andy **would** get surprised.*

(The fact is: We are not going to attend the party, so Andy won't get surprised.)

*If you/he/she/I **were** told to do that work, our boss **would** feel happy.*

(The fact is: We are not told to do that work, so our boss will not feel happy.)

*If I **had** the tool at hand, I **should/would** help you repair the bicycle now.*

(But I do not have the tool at hand, so I cannot help you repair the bicycle now.)

*If you really **loved** me, you**'d buy** me everything I want* ("…but I assume that you do not love me"). (Leech, 1978)

*If I **had** money (now, or in future), I**'d** buy you an iPhone.*

(But I do not have money now or in future, so I won't buy you an iPhone.)

*If I **wrote** a letter to my brother **now**, he **would receive** it the day after tomorrow.*

(But I'm not writing the letter now, so he won't receive it the day after tomorrow.)

*Andy **would** come **if** you **asked** him.*

(The fact is: You won't ask him.)

*If it **rained** tomorrow, the sports meet **would** have to be cancelled.* (But I don't expect it will rain tomorrow).

*Beibei **could** do well if she **tried**.*

Cf. Beibei can do well if she tries. (Indicative mood)

*If she **tried**, she **might do** very well.*

*If you **were** on vacation now, you**'d be having** a wonderful time.*

*We can't swim here. If we **did**, we **might** both **be drowned**.* (Here *may* cannot be used.)

*If we **had** enough money, I **could*** (= would be able) *buy a tape-recorder toady.*

 (Leech et al., 1974)

*I don't have a phone with me. If there **were** one with me, I **could call** Meiqin now.*

*If she **were/was** cheated, she **would** be in a fit of temper to kill her husband.*

*If it **weren't** for the rain* (= If it weren't raining), *I**'d** certainly go out now.*

(The fact is: *It's raining now*. Here *If it weren't for* = But for.)

*If you **were** a gentleman, you**'d do** anything I asked.*

= If you were a gentleman, you would be willing to do anything I asked.

***Even if** it **rained** cats and dogs, I **wouldn't/shouldn't** stay here all day long.*

***Even if** I **were** there now, I **shouldn't be** able to solve the problem by myself*.

(In fact, I am not there. This is contrary to the present fact.)

In spoken English, we sometimes drop "*If I were you*" in "*I should go talk to her,*" and *"I shouldn't worry."* In formal English, ***were*** is always used in the *if-clause* (with subjunctive mood) for all persons whether ***were*** is used in a progressive tense or in a passive voice, as seen from the sentences above. However, in colloquial English, ***was*** is used instead of ***were*** for the first and the third person singular, e.g. *If I **was** the landlord, I would kick her out.* But ***were*** is often used in *if I were you* or *if he/she were you* or *as it were*. *I were* and *she/he were* emphasize their untrue nature more than *I was* and *he/she was*.

3.4.2   Supposition contrary to the fact referring to no particular time

We use this construction to express supposition contrary to the fact in reference to no particular time:

> *If there **were** no water, there **would be** no life on earth.*
> *No matter how perfect the bird's wing is, it **could** never **lift** the bird if it **were** not supported by air.*

3.5 The subjunctive present tense

The subjunctive present tense form has the original form of a verb (subjunctive verb) for all its persons. By "the original form of a verb for all its persons" is meant that the third person singular will not take an *–s* ending and that the verb "***be***" is not inflected in different persons. R.Quirk et al. (1972) called it "The present subjunctive." The present subjunctive present tense appears to be used more in AmE than in BrE (also see **1.6.3.1** and **1.6.3.2**). This tense has been used as follows:

3.5.1 To indicate doubt or uncertainty about a condition or concession

We use the subjunctive present tense to express doubt or uncertainty about a condition or rejection concession. They are found used in the sentences introduced by *if*, *even if, even though, though, what though, whatever*, *etc.*:

> *Even though it **be** true, I won't believe.* (formal)
> = Even though it ***should*** be true, I won't believe.
> *Though she **be*** (subjunctive) *the richest woman in town, she **would** not be satisfied.*
> *Though he **is/be** the President himself, he shall hear us.* (R. Quirk et al., 1972)
> *If he **be** an honest man, he will return you the money.* (formal)
> = If he ***should*** be an honest man, he will …
> *If this rumor **be** true or not, we cannot remain here*. (Schibsbye,1979)
> = If this rumor ***should*** be true or not, we cannot …
> *If we **be** in time, we shall find him at home.* (formal)
> = If we ***should*** be in time, we shall …
> *If he **work** hard, he can yet succeed.* (formal)

= If he ***should*** work hard, he can yet succeed.
*If it **rain** tomorrow, we'll change our plan.* (formal)
= If it ***should*** rain tomorrow, we'll change our plan.
*If it **be** (= is) fine tomorrow, we shall sail.*
*If an Association member **be** found guilty of misconduct, his membership shall be suspended and appropriate dues refunded.* (Leech, 1978, p.106)
*Whatever **be** the reasons for it, we cannot tolerate this disloyalty.* (Quirk et al., 1972)
(Cf. Whatever *may be* the reasons …)
*If he **should** be an honest man, he will return you the money.*
(He might be an honest man.)
*If you **should** hear news of them, please let me know.*
(You might hear news of them.)
*If he **should** work hard, he can make more progress.*
*If it **should** rain tomorrow, we'll change our plan.*
*If you **should** see him, let me know.* (F. R. Palmer, 1978)
Or: ***Should*** *you see him, let me know.*
*What though the battle **be** (=is) lost? We can fight again!* (Proctor et al., 1978)

The sentences with ***should*** is still indicative. It should not have been called subjunctive, as it usually has. Leech (1978) pointed out that "The effect of the theoretical *should* is to make the condition slightly more tentative and "academic" than it would be with the ordinary Present Tense." The form "***if … should***" is used more theoretical suppositions. The forms "***if he be*** (not *is*)*"* or "***if he come*** (not ***comes***)*"* are the same as "***if he should be***" or "***if he should come***" in their meaning. However, the form "***if he should come***" is different from "***if he comes***". The former is considered as a possible fact or as a pure supposition or implies an uncertainty; the latter is considered as quite possible that *he will come*. As mentioned earlier, when a supposition is known to be untrue or unlikely or contrary to a fact, we can use the past form of the verb to indicate subjunctive mood, e.g. ***If I knew her, If I were you*** (but *I don't know her*, and *I am not you*). Whenever such forms occur, it is always possible to insert the word ***should*** in it as seen above. In all the examples above, we should now always substitute the indicative present form (except, perhaps, in very formal English). For example:

 *If he **is** an honest man, he will return you the money.* (real conditional)
(He may be an honest man.)
*If he **works** hard, he can yet succeed.* (real conditional)
(He may work hard.)
*If it **rains** tomorrow, we'll change our plan.* (real conditional)
*If you **be** quick (=If you are quick), you'll see them.* (real conditional, also see **2.2**)
*If you **don't be** quick* (= If you aren't quick), *you'll miss them.* (real conditional)
*If we **be** in time, we shall find him at home.* (formal)

= If we ***should*** be in time, we shall …
*If he **work** hard, he can yet succeed.* (formal)
= If he *should* work hard, he can yet succeed.
*If he **doesn't be** a good boy* (= If he isn't a good boy), *I **shan't** give him anything.*
(real conditional)

If an event is thought of as unlikely, we use a past tense form in the *if*-clause and the future in the past tense in the main clause, e.g. "*If it **rained** tomorrow, I **would** stay at home, etc.*

3.5.2 To express desire or an entreaty to God or a prayer in set exclamatory wishes

Besides what is described above, we use subjunctive present tense to express desire or an entreaty to God or a prayer in some fixed exclamatory wishes:

*Heaven **forbid** that…!*
*Grammar **be** damned*! (Hornby, 1977)
*God **save** him*!
*God **help** you!*
*God **be** praised!*
*God **bless** you!*
*God **damn** you!*
*God **bless** America!*
*God **save** the Queen!*
*Heaven **help** them!*
*Heaven **forbid**!*
*The Devil **take** him!*
*Cursed **be** those villains.*
*Far **be** it from me to spoil the fun.* (R. Quirk, et al., 1972)
*Glory (**be**) to the people!*
*Long **live** the President!*
*Long **live** America!*
*Lord **have** mercy upon us!*
*So **be** it then!*
***Be** he who he may, he has no right here.*
*The Kingdom **come**.*
***Suffice** it to say that …*
*Home is home, **be** it ever so homely, I'll help you.* (Schibsbye, 1979)
*Whatever **be** the reasons for it, we **cannot** tolerate disloyalty.*
= Whatever the reasons for it may be …

In such sentences or fixed phrases above, the verbs are used with the plain root form (subjunctive present tense), that is, the third person singular has no *s* ending. Here again the tense is now

replaceable by the indicative with the modal verb ***may,*** with the subject and auxiliary verb inversion to express "wish.", e.g. Such as:

> ***May*** *they be successful!*
> Cf: They *may* be successful. (This is indicative mood.)
> ***May*** *your holiday be full of joy!*
> ***May*** *God save him.*
> ***May*** *she live to be a hundred*! (Evans, et al., 1957)
> ***May*** *you be happy!* (R. Quirk, et al., 1972)
> ***May*** *the best man win!*
> ***May*** *Heaven forbid him!*
> ***May*** *his evil designs perish!*
> ***May*** *those villains be cursed.*
> ***May*** *God bless America!*
> ***May*** *God grant you happiness!*
> ***May*** *God be with the people of Sutherland Springs, Texas.*
> (Donald J. Trump, 11:34 PM – 14 Nov 2017)
> *- http://fortune.com/2017/11/15/trump-tweet-california-shooting/*
> ***May*** *you have a long and happy life!* (less usual)
> *Much good **may** it do you!* (Hornby,1977)
> *Long **may** you live to enjoy it!*
> ***Be*** *that as it **may**, we'll stick to our plan.*
> *Cost what it **may,** I'll go there to help her.*
> ***Come*** *what **may**, we will go ahead, **etc.***

3.5.3 *Shall* **in the main clause**

 Present subjunctive mood is also found in the *if*-clause from archaic or legalistic contexts while ***shall*** is used in the main clause:

> *If the server **serve** a fault twice, he **shall** lose a point.* (archaic, Leech, 1978)

3.5.4 *Shall* **used in** *that*-**clause**

Besides ***should***, ***shall*** is found to be used after some verbs (i.e. *intend, propose, agree*, *etc.*) or their corresponding nouns when they are followed by the *that*-clause, which occurs in legal documents or in very formal English. For example:

> *We **intend** that this Bill **shall** become law by the end of the year.*
> *We **propose/agree/have decided** that each member of the club **shall** be asked to pay a subscription of £10 a year.* (R.A. Close, 1975)

= We propose/agree/have decided that each member of the club **should** be asked to pay a subscription of £10 a year. (normal)
= We propose/agree/have decided that each member of the club **be** asked to pay a subscription of £10 a year. (chiefly AmE)
*Our **intention** is that this Bill **shall** become law by the end of the year.*

Shall (R.A Close, 1975, p. 265) can also express obstinate attitude or decision or determination on the part of the speaker:

*I **shall** go if I want*. (obstinate)
*The enemy **shall** not pass.* (determination/decision)
= We are determined not to let them pass.

3.6 *If* + past perfect tense, *should/would…* + **have done form**

Supposition is contrary to the past fact. Therefore, the past perfect tense is used in the *if-clause* and *should/would…+ have done* is used in the main clause:

In the Subordinate Clause (*if-clause*)	In the Main (or Result) Clause
the past perfect tense	*should/would …+ have done* form

3.6.1 Contrary to the past fact

We use the past perfect tense in the *if*-clause and **should** or **would** or **might** or **could**+ perfect tense in the main clause to express something contrary to the past fact:

*If he **had not been** ill, he **would have attended** all classes.*
(The fact is: He was ill, so he did not attend all classes.)
*If you'd **been** at the conference I **should/would have seen** you.*
(The fact is: You were not at the conference, so I didn't see you. **Should** is used only for 1st person singular or plural, *I* or *we,* in the main clause.)
*If I **had dropped** that computer, the boss **would have been** angry* (but I didn't drop it).
*Meiqin **would have** certainly **come** if you'**d** (= you had) **asked** her.*
*If you **had looked** at the map, we'**d/should** never **have been** so late.*
(But you didn't look at the map, and we were late.) (Alexander et al., 1977)
*If it **had not been** for your great help, I **wouldn't have completed** the work on time.*
*If he **hadn't been evicted** by his landlord, he **wouldn't have been sleeping** in the streets.*
The fact is**:** He was evicted and was sleeping in the streets.
*If you **had told** me that, I **shouldn't have called** her again.*
*If the police **had caught** us, we'**d have had** to make a clean breast of it*. (Leech, 1978)
*If you **had been** serious about finding a job, you **would have found** one long ago.*

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Note: If you were serious, or had been in the past, you would have found one in the past.
 (Alexander et al., 1977)

*You **could have done** it if you **had tried**.* (Hornby, 1977)

*If he'**d taken** his doctor's advice he **might not have died**.*

(The fact is: He didn't take his doctor's advice, so he died or he might still be alive if he took his doctor's advice.)

*If you **had worked** a little harder, you **could/might have passed** the exam.*

*If you **had been standing** at the corner of the street, I **could have given** you a ride.*

=If you had been standing at the corner of the street, I would have been able to give you a ride, but you were not standing at the corner of the street, ….

*He **might have come** if we'**d** (= we had) **asked** him.* (Hornby, 1977)

(The fact is: We didn't ask him.)

Leech (1978) pointed out that "***Could*** in the "ability" sense does not occur in a hypothetical main clause when the main verb is a 'state verb', referring to a permanent accomplishment."
For example:

If you'd had proper lessons, you **could know English.*

But: *If you'**d had** proper lessons, you **would be able to know /would know** how to speak English.*

Evans et al. (1958) pointed out that "***Could*** may be used with ***have*** in a conditional clause that is contrary to fact, …This construction cannot be used with any other word except ***could***."
For example:

*If I **could have found** him, I **would have told** him.*

Could I have gone, *I **would have made** a lot of money.*

= If I could have gone, I would have made a lot of money.

*If I **could have done** it at that minute, I **would have killed** him.*

*If I **could have warned** you in time, I **would have done**.* (Eastwood, 2002)

3.6.2   Used in the sentence of rejection concession

We use some compound subordinators to express something contrary to the past fact:

Even if I had been there, I ***shouldn't /wouldn't have been able*** *to solve the problem by myself.*

(The fact is: I was not there, so I was unable to solve the problem by myself.)

Also see **3.5.1.**

3.6.3 *Have* in *if*-clause

In informal spoken English, an additional *have* is sometimes added into the *if*-clauses referring to the past. This is not correct, but some people (even educated people) still use it in speech:

> If I'd **have** *known,* I'd have told you.
> = If I had known, I'd have told you.

3.6.4 Occurring in other implicational conditionals

We sometimes drop the *if*-clause in the sentences when the context is clear or understood:

> *A stranger* **would not have found** *her house.*
> = If he were a stranger, he would have been unable to find her house.)
> *Previously she* **would have done** *it.*
> = If that had happened in the past, she would have done it.

3.7 Future doubtful supposition

There are three tense forms expressing the future doubtful supposition (that may be contrary to a future fact or assumption):

3.7.1 *Were to do* used in *if*-clause

In *if-clause*	In Main (Result) Clause
were to do	*should/would …+ do*

We use *were to do* in the *if*-clause and *should* or *would do* in the main clause to express future doubtful supposition. That may be contrary to a future fact or assumption:

> If she **were to hear** *of your marriage, she* **would be surprised**.
> If you **were to start** *tomorrow afternoon, you* **would/could/might/ought to/should be** *in Las Vegas by evening.* (The fact is: You won't start tomorrow afternoon, …)
> If I/you **were to touch** *that wire, I/you* **would be killed** *instantly*.
> If it **were to rain** *tomorrow, the sports meet* **would be postponed**. (hypothetical future)
> If **he was to touch** *that wire, he* **would be killed** *instantly*. (informal due to the use of **was**)
> If Andy **were to have** *more time tomorrow, he* **would come** *to help me with the work.*

The last sentence, for example, indicates "But I think it is highly improbable that Andy will have more time tomorrow." As mentioned earlier, **was** could replace **were** in informal style with 1st and 3rd person singular subjects, but not in the following when subject-verb inversion (also see **3.9**) is used:

Were this project to fail, it **would be** a great loss for us all.
= If this project were/was to fail, it would be a great loss for us all.
***Was** this project to fail, it **would be** a great loss for us all.

In ***If I were you***, we always use ***were*** in formal English. If we say: "*If I was you*", it is regarded as substandard English, but in other cases, ***was*** or ***were*** is possible, but ***were*** is still better than ***was*** in formal English. ***Were*** is used to emphasize its untrue nature more than ***was***, as in:

*If I **were/was** to ask her for help, she would come.*
(The fact is: I won't ask for help.)
= Were I to ask her for help, she would come.
*Was I to ask her for help, she would come.

In real conditional clauses, only ***was*** is used, as in:

*If he **was** here, he **was** in the garden.* (But not **If he **were** here, …*)

3.7.2 *Should* + *do* used in *if*-clause

In *if-clause*	In Main (Result) Clause
should do	*should/would …+ do*

We use *should do* in the *if*-clause and *should* or *would do* in the main clause to express future doubtful supposition. That may be contrary to a future fact or assumption:

*If Andy **should** have more time tomorrow, he **would** come to help me with the work.*

The above sentence indicates "whether Andy will have more time tomorrow is dependent upon chance." ***Should*** in such a case expresses a tentative condition in the *if*-clauses (Leech et al., 1974, p.127). It is noted that *should* or *would* can be replaced by *could* or *might*, etc., as the sense requires. For example:

*If he **could** help me, he **would**.* (He can't help me.)
Cf. If he *should* hear of your marriage, he *would* be surprised. (Hornby, 1977)
*If he **might** come, he **would come** early.* (He may not come.)

3.7.3 Past tense used in *if*-clause

In *if-clause*	In Main (Result) Clause
the past tense	*should/would …+ do*

We use the past tense in the *if*-clause and *should/would + do* in the main clause to express present or future doubtful supposition. That may be contrary to a present or future fact or assumption:

> *If Andy **had** more time tomorrow, he **would come** to help me with the work.*
> Note that the sentence indicates "But I think it is improbable that Andy will have more time
>   tomorrow."
> *If we **had** enough money, we **could** (=would be able to) **buy** a house now.*
> *If Sandy **came** tomorrow, she **would work** in the garden.*

Note that *Sandy's coming tomorrow* is unlikely or impossible; it is an unreal conditional. In such a case, when it expresses unreal conditional, the past tense of a modal is used in the main clause as shown in the sentences above: "*If Sandy came tomorrow, she **would** work in the garden"* whereas "*If Sandy **comes** tomorrow, she **will** work in the garden.* We use "comes" here, so *her coming tomorrow* is likely. This is indicative mood. As described earlier, we can use either the past tense of a verb or *were to do* in the *if*-clause to express present or future unreal conditional, but the use of *were to do* indicates greater unreality. "*If you **were to tell** her the story, she would take advantage of it*" is more unreal than "*If you **told** her the story*, *she would take advantage of it*."

We do not use ***might*** in the main clause, because ***might*** is a discourse oriented modal, which has no unreal form occurring "as unreal conditionals, past or present, …" (F. R. Palmer, 1978, p.144), that is, when ***might*** indicates the meaning of permission. But ***might have +done*** can be used in the main clause in reference to something contrary to the past fact, e.g. *Andy might have come if we had asked him*. But ***may*** can be used in real conditionals, as in "*If you finish early, you **may** go*." For example:

> **If you **finished** early, you **might** go. (Might* means "permission.)
> Cf. If you finished early, I might let you go (= "… it's possible that I would let you go").
> *If we **climbed** the hill, we **would/could/might see** the sunset.* (Palmer, 1978)
> (unreal present predicative, ***might*** indicting the meaning of "probable")

In the above-mentioned unreal conditional sentences, both the *if*-clause and the main clause (or result clause) refer to two actions which happened at the same time or one after another.

3.8 Different tense forms used in both clauses

When the actions expressed in the two clauses do not take place at the same time, different tense forms (mixed time) are used in both clauses. That is to say, the *if*-clause refers to conditional past time using the past perfect tense, but the main clause has the simple past tense:

> If you **had not seen** *that late movie last night, you* **wouldn't be** *so tired now.*
> (subjunctive mood)

We know *you saw the late movie last night*, which is the past fact; as a result, *you are feeling tired now*, which is the present fact. *If we* **hadn't made** *adequate preparations before the rainy season* (contrary to the past fact), *we* **wouldn't (shouldn't) be able** *to start the project next week* (referring to doubtful supposition in the future). *I* **should not be** *here now if you* **hadn't given** *me a ride.* "I should not be here now" is contrary to the present fact: "I'm here now." "If you hadn't given me a ride*"* is contrary to the past fact: "You gave me a ride."
More examples:

> *If you* **hadn't told** *me about it I* **should/might not know** *(=* I should still be unaware of*) the fact*. (Hornby, 1977)
> *If we* **had caught** *that plane, we* **'d be dead** *now*.
> (We are not dead now, because we didn't catch that plane. It's said that the plane was crashed after it took off.)
> *If you* **hadn't come** *to our rescue, we* **shouldn't be sitting** *here safely now.*
> Note: If you hadn't done that in the past, we shouldn't be here now. (Alexander, et al., 1977)
> *If you* **had broken** *that law, you* **would be** *in jail now.*
> *If it* **had rained** *last night, the roads* **would be** *wet.*
> (It did not rain last night – contrary to the past fact; the roads are not wet now– contrary to the present fact.)
> *If you* **hadn't forgotten** *your passport, we* **wouldn't be** *in such a rush*. (Eastwood, 2002)
> *If he* **'d taken** *his doctor's advice, he* **might still be** *alive.* (He didn't take his doctor's advice, so he is dead now.)

3.9 The omission of *if*

The conjunction **if** is frequently omitted when **were, should, could,** or **had** is placed before the subject, that is, the subject-verb inversion is used (also see **1.6.2**). They are often used in literature:

> *Were I* (= If I were/was) you, I **would help** her with the project.
> **Was* I you, I **would help** her with the project.
> **Could he** (= If he could) **lend** *me $500*, **I would** *buy an iPhone.*
> **Had you** (= If you had) **invited** *us, we* **would have come** *to your party.*

Had it not been for your great help, *I wouldn't have completed* the work on time.
Were it not for the expense, *I'd go to* Las Vegas.
= If it weren't for the expense, I'd go to Las Vegas.
= But for the expense, I'd go to Las Vegas.
**Weren't it for* the expense, *I'd go* to Las Vegas.
Should it (= If it should) *rain* tomorrow, *I would stay* at home.
Were he (= If he were/was) *here, he would explain* the whole matter.
**Was he here, he would explain* the whole matter.
Had I been able to speak Spanish, *I would have enjoyed* the country much more.
Had you not been with me, *I couldn't have made* myself understood at all.
= if you hadn't been with me, I couldn't have made myself understood at all.
    (Alexander et al., 1977, p.217)
**Hadn't you been* with me, *I couldn't have made* myself understood at all.

As mentioned before, the verb *was* is not to be so inverted; we do not usually say, "*Was he here, he would explain the whole matter" or "**Was this project to fail*, it would be a great loss for us all." We will use *Were* instead: "*Were* he here, …" and "*Were* this project to fail, …" But there is no problem for *were/was* to be used in "If I were/was there, I'd help her" as described above. *Hadn't* is unacceptable in *Hadn't you been* with me, *I couldn't have made* myself understood at all, but instead we can say "Had you not been with me, I couldn't have made …"

3.10. Subjunctive mood used in other constructions

3.10.1 A few stereotyped phrases
We still have a few stereotyped or fixed phrases (also see **3.5.2**), in which present subjunctive tense is used:

> *Come* what may
> *Be* that as it may
> *Far **be** it from me to* (+ infinitive or a *that*-clause)
> *Suffice* it to (+ infinitive)

In fact, this tense does not come within the current meaning of the subjunctive mood. That it still lingers in certain special connections does not affect its status at all.

3.10.2 Wish
Wish (or exclamatory *if only*) is used with the *that*-clause for an unfulfilled desire or a desire that is unlikely to be fulfilled. When **wish** is followed by an object clause introduced by *that*, the *that* is often omitted in the object clause or after **if only** (also see 3.10.6). When we use the *wish* to refer to present or future time, the past tense (especially with *stative verbs*), or *would + event verbs,* is used in the object clause. When the subject in the object clause is different from that in

the main clause, the past perfect tense is found used to refer to the past action that was not realized. Besides, we can use other model auxiliary verbs such as *could* or *would*. For example:

I wish I knew how to solve the math problem. (I'm sorry I don't know. *Know* is a state verb.)
I wish Andy had known how to solve the math problem. (I'm sorry he didn't know.)
I wish I were rich. (I'm poor now – contrary to the present fact.)
I wish the clock would work tomorrow. (contrary to the future possible fact)
I wish the clock worked now. (contrary to the present fact)
I wish I hadn't done that. (I am sorry I did that – contrary to the past fact.)
I wish (that) *he were not so agitated.*
 (It is a pity (or I am sorry) that he is so agitated.)
I wish I knew where he *went.* (contrary to the present fact)
(The sentence means "I am sorry (that) I don't know where he went.")
*I wish that book *would belong* to me. (*Belong* is a stative verb)
But: I wish that book belonged to me.
I wish I was going with you next week.
(contrary to the future fact – I'm not going with you next week.)
I wish the boys *would be* quiet.
(It is a pity that the boys isn't quiet/won't be quiet.)
I wish you'd be quiet.
I wish he came.
But: "I wish him to come" is an order, not a wish.
I wish I could afford to buy this iPhone.
(present wish, present affair; the fact is that I'm unable to buy this iPhone.)
I wish Andy had not made such a serious mistake.
(present wish, past affair; the fact is that Andy made the mistake.)
I wish I could have gone with you. (F. R. Palmer, 1978)
He wishes his wife *wouldn't spend* so much time gossiping with the neighbors.
  (Hornby, 1977)
I wish I were/was dead.
I wish (that) *you would listen* to me (but you won't)!
I wish Meiqin wouldn't come to the kitchen while I am preparing to cook.
I wish the rain *would stop!*
Our wish was that he *leave* (not *left*) *this city at once.* (L.X.H, 1982)
It was our wish that he (*should*) *leave* the city at once.
It is my ardent wish that he *come* at once. (Schibsbye, 1979)
If only the rain *would stop!*
If only I knew!
If I only had come a few minutes earlier! (= If only I had come a few minutes earlier!)
If only I had known!

It is to be noted that when **wish** is a noun and followed especially by an appositive clause as described above, subjunctive present tense is used, e.g. *It was our* **wish** *that he* **(should) leave** *the city at once* (also see **1.6.3.1**). The auxiliary **would** introduces a wish that seems to the speaker unlikely to be fulfilled (Evans et al., 1957, p.485). If the subject of **wish** is the first person, ***I***, **would** or **should** is not likely to be used to express futurity. Thus, we use a past tense, progressive or **was/were going** instead. For example:

> **?***I wish I would/should see* *Andy tomorrow.*
> ***I wish I would have** more spare time.* (Eastwood, 2002, p.321)
> *I wish I **had** more spare time.*
> *I wish I **was seeing** Andy tomorrow.*
> *I wish I **was going** to see Meiqin tomorrow.*
> *I wish I **saw** Andy tomorrow.*

Sometimes **would** + **do** construction is used when the subject in the main clause is different from that in the object clause to indicate volitional coloring or it is tact, it depending on context, but no problem for *could* when it is followed by a perfect tense. For example:

> *I **wish** you **would buy** me that iPhone.*
> *I **wish** you **wouldn't joke** about my haircut.*
> *I **wish** you'd **leave**.* (tact, not contrary to expectation – a polite way of utterance)
> **I **wish** you **would have told** me.*
> But: I wish you had told me.
> *I wish I **could have gone** with you.*

Note **would have done** cannot be used here to express a wish in the past. Instead, Past Perfect Tense is used, i.e. *I wish you had told me*. However, **you would** in the object clause after the verb *wish*, expresses rather a polite request than a wish in its literal sense. **Will** is unidiomatic when used in the clause:

> **I **wish** I **will (shall)** be able to come.*

We should say, instead:

> *I **wish** I **was** able to come.*
> I **wish** you **would** shut the window. (= Please shut the window.)
> Or else:
> *I **hope** I **will (shall)** be able to come.* (indicative mood)
> *I **hope** that I **(will/shall) come** tomorrow.* (indicative mood)
> *I **hope** Meiqin **comes** next week.* (indicative mood)

I hope that Andy *comes* next Friday. (indicative mood, present tense used for futurity in the *that*-clause)

3.10.3 Would (that)

We use **would (that)** followed by the *that*-clause. Such use is old-fashioned English to express a strong wish or desire:

> **Would that** we had seen her before she died.
> **Would that** you were here tonight. (archaic)
> **Would** (=I wish) *that we had gone with them!* (archaic)
> **Would I knew** what to do! (archaic)
> **Would to** God! (archaic)

3.10.4 Subjunctive mood used in some verbs

A past perfect tense in the *that*-clause or a perfect infinitive (of some verbs) is used to indicate something that is unfulfilled, unrealized, or not carried out. These verbs are usually in reference to a past hope, expectation, intention, desire, etc. They are: *expect* (or followed by a *that*-clause), *hope* (usually followed by a *that*-clause), *intend, mean* (= intend)*, suppose* (or followed by a *that*-clause), *want, wish,* and *should/would like, was/were to have done, was/were going to, etc*., as in:

> *This table **is supposed to have been cleaned**, but it looks dirty.*
> *She's **supposed to have lost** her temper.*
> (She should have lost her temper, but she didn't.)
> *We **were to have been married** in Las Vegas last year (but we didn't get married).*
> *Andy **was to have repaired** the computer yesterday (but he didn't).*
> *We **were to have left** at 7, but the plan was changed.*
> *She **was to have been meeting** me now, but she isn't meeting me now.*
> I *should like to have called* you the other day, but I forgot.
> *I didn't see/watch the movie when it was on. It's too late now. But I **would like to have seen** it.*
> ***I would*** (=should) ***have liked*** to go yesterday, but I didn't have the chance.
>   (R.A. Close, 1975, p.268)
> ***I would/should have preferred*** to tell you the news, but I didn't have the chance.
> *Most of them **would like to have visited** Las Vegas.*
> Sandy ***intended/meant to have told*** you about what happened to her last week.
> Marlowe ***expected to have reached*** the top of the mountain by noon, but the bad weather stopped him.
> *I **meant to have told** you what was going on last night, but I decided not to.*

*I **thought** it wrong **to have helped** her.* (hypothetical)
*I **wanted to have seen** you ever so much, but I did not like to bother you.*
*I **expected** the door **to have opened**, but it did not. It remained shut.*
*I **expected to have seen** Meiqin in Las Vegas.*
*I **meant/intended to have seen** the movie (but that was my intention; I didn't see it).*
*Andy **had wanted** to help you but couldn't get here in time.*
*Meiqin **had thought** of paying us a visit, but the coronavirus made her change her mind.*
*Andy **hadn't expected** that.*
Or: *That was something Andy **hadn't expected**.*
*I **hadn't expected/supposed** that I should get the lottery.*
(But my expectation/supposition was mistaken. I did get the lottery.)
*We **had hoped** that she would soon be well again.* (Hornby, 1977, p.95)

Generally speaking, the above examples have the meaning of subjunctive mood. Moreover, we can use a past perfect tense in the main clause rather than the perfect infinitive, with no practical difference in meaning. For example:

*Sandy **had intended** to tell me about what happened to her last week.*
Cf. Sandy intended **to have told** me about what happened to her last week.
*Marlowe **had expected** to reach the top of the mountain by noon, but the bad weather stopped him.*
Cf. Marlowe expected **to have reached** the top of the mountain by noon, but ….

It is to be noted that "*Marlowe **had expected** to **have reached** the top of the mountain by noon, but the bad weather stopped him*" is also acceptable, but we have a redundant sentence, both perfect tenses showing in the main verb and in the infinitive.

The construction *is/am/are going to* + infinitive is very commonly used, especially in speech, to indicate intention or plan, e.g. "*I'm going to visit my girlfriend next week*." But the use of *was/were going to* + infinitive or *have been going to* + infinitive indicates a past/present intention or plan that was not/is not carried out. For example:

*I **was going to visit** Meiqin yesterday, but I was not feeling well, so I did not visit her.*
*He's **been going to mend** that window-catch for months ("…but he hasn't got round to it").* (Leech, 1978, p.57)

The use of the construction *be + to* + infinitive indicates plans, arrangements, and agreements, e.g. "*We **are to be married** in Las Vegas next month*." However, the use of *was/were to* + perfect infinitive (as seen earlier) indicates an arrangement that was made but not carried out. For example:

*We **were to have been married** in Las Vegas last month, but we **had to cancel** the wedding due to COVID-19.*

3.10.5 Subjunctive mood used in a relative clause or imperative sentence

Subjunctive mood sometimes also occurs in a relative clause, imperative sentences, or exclamatory sentences, etc., it depending on the context:

*A country **that** stopped closing so soon **would** quickly **have** more coronavirus cases.*
(If a country stopped closing so soon, it would quickly have more coronavirus cases.)
***Imagine being married** to a man **who snored**!*
(= Imagine being married to a man if he snored.)
***Suppose/Imagine** he **were** here*, *we **would feel** uncomfortable.*
*How much wiser (it **would have been**) to reduce speed!* (Hornby, 1977, p.18)
*What a mistake (**it would be**) to ignore their advice!*
*It **wouldn't be** any good for me to talk to him.* (Hornby, 1977, p.19)

3.10.6 Used subordinate clauses

We can use some compound subordinators such as *as/so long as, even if*, *even though, for fear (that), in case, if only, etc.,* and simple subordinators such as *though, although*, *lest*, *etc.*, where the subjunctive present tense is found used. They are indicative mood (also see **3.5.1**):

***So long as** a volume **hold** together, I **am** not much troubled as to its outer appearance.*
(formal English, Schibsbye, 1979, p.38)
***Though** everyone **desert** you, I **will** not.* (formal English)
***Though** she **be** the richest woman in town, she would not be satisfied.*

They are indicatives, and the verbs can be replaced with third person singular **holds**, **deserts,** and **is** (also see **3.5.1** & **3.5.2**). When an unreal comparison is suggested in an adverbial clause (also **see** (b) in **Situation C** of **4**) beginning with *as if* or *as though*, a past tense is used with present meaning or a past perfect with past meaning, such as:

*It seems **as if** the dark overcast sky **were going to** fall.*
(The falling of the sky is impossible.)
*It looks **as if** it **were going to** rain.* (According to the weather forecast, it is not going to rain.)
*He behaves **as if/as though** the house **belonged** to him.* (Obviously it doesn't belong to him.)
*It's not **as though** he **were** rich.* (formal, he is not rich.)

*It's not **as though** he **was** rich.* (informal, he is not rich.)
*It isn't **as if** he **were** poor.* (formal, he is not poor.)
*She looks **as if** she **were** fainting.*
*He walked **as if** he **had been drunk**.*
(He was not drunk. He only looked like it when he walked.)
*The bad man acts **as if** he **had known** our plan already. We should change the plan.*

Note when ***as if*** or ***as though*** is used after these verbs (*appear, happen, look, seem, etc.*), a subjunctive mood is used if something is contrary to the past, present or even future, as seen from the examples above, but if something you mention is true, an indicative mood is used, e.g. "*He looks/walks as if he is drunk.*" He is probably drunk because you can see the way he walks. "*The boy looks as if he's been running.*" The boy may well have been running, because you can see he is panting or sweating, etc. Also see **Situation C in 4**.

We use some simple subordinators or compound subordinators to express subjunctive, in which subjunctive present tense (or subjunctive verb) is used when *should* is not used:

*Andy hurried to the classroom **lest** (= for fear that) he **should miss** his class.*
*Meiqin locked up the documents, **lest** they **should be** lost.*
*Go quietly **lest** anyone **hear** you.* (formal, mainly AmE)
*He ran away **lest** he **should be seen**.*
***Lest** he **hear** about it* = Lest he should hear, etc. (L.X.H, 1982, p.388)
*They were in a panic **lest** they **be overtaken** by the police.*
(The use of ***should*** is better before ***be overtaken***.)
*They were in a panic **lest** the maid **leave**.*
 (The use of ***should*** is better before ***leave.*** (Evens, et al., 1957, p.272)
*Andy handled the instrument with care **for fear (that) it should be damaged.***
*Make a note of my iPhone number **in case** you **should send** me text messages.*
*Take an umbrella with you **in case** it **should rain**.* (mainly AmE)
*Take an umbrella with you **in case** it **rains**.* (Mainly BrE)
*Be quiet **in case** you (**should**) **wake** the baby.*
***Even though** he **were** my brother, I **would cast** him out* ("…but he is not") (archaic).
***Even though** he **were** here, I **should say** the same thing.*
***Even if** I **was/were** there, what **could** I do?*
*Meiqin **wouldn't want** a dog **even if** she **had** room to keep one.*
***If only** they **would tell** me what they've decide.*
If only** I **had known! (*If only* can be used to begin exclamations.)
If only (= I wish, or I do wish) *I **could remember/knew** her name!*
***If only** the rain **would stop**! (= I wish the rain would stop!)*
***If only** I **knew**!* (Hornby, 1977, p.215)

***If only** I could swim!*
***If only** you **would listen** to reason!*
***If only** I'd **listened** to my girlfriend!*
***If only** he **didn't snore**!*
***If only** I **hadn't listened** to my wife!* (But I did listen to her.)
***If I only I had come** a few minutes earlier!* (=If only I had come a few minutes earlier!)

Note that *if only* is more emphatic than **wish** (see 3.10.2) when it expresses regret. Sometimes we use a present tense in *if only* clause when we express a wish about the future. Such use looks like a real conditional, e.g. *If only the train **gets in** on time, we'll **catch** the two o'clock bus* (Eastwood, 2002, p. 321). "*For fear that* combines the idea of purpose with that of 'afraid that' in "We issued these instructions in writing, for fear that a spoken message might be misunderstood." The formal **lest** could replace *for fear that* in the above sentence; but **for fear that** would not replace **lest** in "We erected this memorial, lest our children (should)" or "We issued the instructions in writing, lest a spoken message (should) be misunderstood." (R.A. Close, 1975, p.65)

3.10.7 But for

In a sentence containing the phrasal preposition *but for* is equal to *if it weren't for, if it wasn't for*, or *if it had not been for* (also see **3.10.8**)*,* to express the meaning of subjunctive for past, present or future. For example:

*   **But for** *the fact that it is raining now, I'd go out.* (contrary to the present fact)
    =If it *weren't/wasn't for* the fact that it is raining now, I'd go out.
    = If it *were not/was not* raining now, I'd go out.
    But for *your co-operation* (= If it hadn't been for your co-operation), *our meeting **wouldn't have been** so successful.* (contrary to the past fact)
    *We **could have arrived** at 8 a.m. **but for** the rain.* (contrary to the past fact)
    (The fact is: We arrived later than 8 a.m. because of the rain.)
    *An accident **would have occurred but for** the timely discovery of the mistake.*
    (Because of the timely discovery of the mistake, no accident occurred. It is contrary to the past fact.)
    ***But for his having helped us,** we **should not have been** successful last week.*
    (A gerundial form is used; if he had not helped us, we should not have been ….)

3.10.8 *If it were/was not for/ if it hadn't been for*

This construction is used to express something unlikely to happen at past, present, or future, as in

*   ***If it weren't for** your help, I wouldn't complete the work.*
    = Without your help/But for your help, I wouldn't complete the work.
    (Contrary to the present fact: You are helping me now, I will complete the work soon.)

If it hadn't been for your help, I wouldn't have completed the work.
= Without your help/But for your help, I wouldn't have completed the work.
(Contrary to the past fact: You helped me, so I completed the work.)

3.10.9 With, without

In a sentence that contains the preposition, **without …,** if unreal supposition is suggested, it means "*if it weren't/wasn't for*" (used for unreal present or future) *or "if it hadn't been for"*(used for unreal past). For example:

I **wouldn't be able to** chair the meeting **without** your support tomorrow. (future supposition)
Their success **would not have been** possible **without** effort. (contrary to a past fact)
(The fact is that their success has been possible because of their effort.)
Without your help (=If you had not helped me), I **wouldn't have completed** the project on time.
We **could** hardly **live without** air.
(The present fact is that we can live because we have air.)
With a bit time, we **could do** a proper job. (= If we had a bit more time, …)

3.10.10 'd rather/sooner (= would prefer) followed by *that*-clause

When *I'd rather (=I'd sooner)* is followed by a clause, subjunctive mood is used in the *that*-clause, and *that* is usually omitted in the clause. "*I'd rather*" = I would rather or had rather. "*Had rather* is felt to be the more literary of the two" (Evans, et al., 1957), as in

I'd rather (=sooner) *we* **stopped** now.
Cf. I'd rather stay at home (than go shopping).
I'd rather/sooner you **didn't wait**.
I'd rather we **had** dinner now.
I'd rather you'd asked me first (but you didn't ask me.)
I'd rather (that) people **didn't know** our secret. (People know our secret.)
I'd rather you **hadn't told** him (but unfortunately you did tell him).
I'd rather we **were going** home. (R.A. Close, p.253, p.197)
Note: We are not going home.
He **would** (or **had**) **rather** his children **didn't make** so much noise.

3.10.11 It is time followed by *that*-clause

We use *it is time* followed by the *that*-clause to express subjunctive mood. The *that* is often omitted in informal English. For example:

It is time the child were (was) in bed.
(Practically, = time for the child to go to bed.)
It is time I were (was) leaving/went.

(Practically, = time for me to leave/go.)
It is time we started (were starting).
(Practically, = time for us to start.)
It is (high) time that we went (or should go) back to our work again.

Note in "*It's (high) time"* the meaning is present or future, not past, and to suggests that the right time for an activity, etc. is now, or has passed or has been postponed too long. In "*It's high time the kids were in bed*," say, it is 10 o'clock now. The kids usually go to bed at 9, but the kids are still playing. They are supposed to go to bed now.

3.10.12 Suppose, supposing

Subjunctive mood is also found in *suppose/supposing (that)* in reference to past, present or future (also **see 1.5**), and *would* can occur in the main clause. For example:

Suppose/Supposing (that) I had an accident, who would pay? (future)
Suppose/Supposing your friends knew how you're behaving here, what would they think? (Your friends do not know how you're behaving here.)
Supposing I accepted this offer, what would you say?
Supposing my father saw me with you, what might he think?
Suppose/Supposing (that) you were left alone on a desert island, what would you do first/what is the first thing you would do? (Alexander et al., 1977, p.128)
Suppose/Supposing he had asked you for money, would you have given him any?
Just suppose someone had seen us (but they didn't see us). (Leech et al., 1974, p.125)

Note that after *suppose* or *supposing*, we can use a present tense for a possible future action. In such a case, indicative mood occurs rather than the subjunctive. The uncertainty of action is decreasing, e.g. *Suppose/Supposing she does not come*, *what shall we do?* The speaker thinks that she may or may not come. If the speaker says, "*Suppose/Supposing she did not come ...*" it means that *she is unlikely to come.*

3.10.13 Modals (*could*, *might*, *mightn't* or *couldn't, etc.*) with a perfect infinitive

When *could, might*, *mightn't* or *couldn't, etc* is followed by perfect tenses, it refers to something occurring in the past with hypothetical implication. For example:

You might have told me that earlier.
(But you didn't. mild reproach)
You might have been killed if you had boarded that plane.
He couldn't have made that mistake! (possibility)

= It is not even barely possible that he made that mistake. (Leech, 1978, p.121)

*Meiqin **mightn't have made** that mistake*. (possibility)

= It is just possible that Meiqin did not make that mistake.

*You **might have told** me*! (possibility)

= It would have been possible for you to tell me, but you didn't.

*You **might have let** me know the boss was in a foul temper!* (complaint)

*You **might have asked** me to your wedding!*

(This is a reproach addressed to someone for not sending an invitation.)

   (Hornby, 1977, p.202)

*You **might have had** a serious accident*. (But luckily you did not.)

*Andy **might have come** if we'd asked him*. (But we didn't ask him.)

*He **might have been hurt**.* (That was a possibility in the past. But he was not hurt.)

*You **could have given** me some notice*! (complaint)

*I **could have got** the phone, but I didn't.*

*If my parents hadn't been poor I **could have gone** to university.* (Swan, 1980, p.305)

*You **needn't have come** last night.*

(But you came. past no-necessity)

We can use ***might*** with perfect infinitives to express subjunctive mood, but ***may*** with perfect infinitive to express possibilities, the fact of which is unknown to us. ***Must + have done*** form expresses logical deduction. They are all indicative and not subjunctive. For example:

*He **may have been hurt**.*

(Perhaps he was hurt. The possibility exits. We do not yet know.)

*He **might have been hurt**.*

(That was a possibility in the past. But he was not hurt.)

***He isn't back yet. He may have had** an accident.* (Hornby, 1977, p.202)

(Perhaps he has had an accident. We do not know yet.)

*He **may have gone** to hospital.*

(Perhaps he has gone to hospital. logical deduction)

*He **must have arrived** by now.*

(I conjecture that he has probably arrived by now.)

*He **should (ought to) have arrived** by now.*

(This shows logical inference, as "*must have arrived*" shows conjecture.)

The constructions ***'d like to do, 'd like to have done, 'd have liked to do, should/ought to have done, shouldn't/oughtn't to/ have done***, and ***be supposed to have done*** are used to express an unfulfilled past obligation, and ***would like to*** present or future wish or an intention in reference to subjunctive mood (also **see 3.10.4**). For example:

I'd like to be there. (I wish I were there.) (Hornby, 1977, p.216)
I'd like to have been there. (I wish I had been there.)
I'd have liked to be there. (I wish I had been there.)
I would like to have seen the movie (but I didn't see it when it was on.)
She *would have liked to remain just where she was.*
I *would have liked* to hear more from the patient.
(Sinclair, John, et al., 2017, Chapter 5.297)
You should/ought to/ have asked my permission first (but you didn't).
You should have come yesterday.
(But you didn't -- past obligation)
I should have liked to see him. (F.R. Palmer, 1978, p.78)
I shouldn't/oughtn't to/ have told her the true story (but I did).
Meiqin should have told me sooner, but she didn't.
You oughtn't to have driven that car with the brakes out of order (but you did).
You shouldn't /oughtn't have been working (but you were working) *all long that day.*
Why was (there) no one on duty? There should/ought to/ have been someone on duty all
the time. (Alexander et al., 1977, p.132)
Shouldn't there/*Oughtn't* there *to have been* a message for us?
We *oughtn't to/ shouldn't / have been left* to find our own way.
You are supposed to have told me about her story (but you didn't).

But we only use the main clause that contains perfect tenses without the ***if***-clause used, when the context is understood or clear. For example:

You should have come yesterday.
(But you didn't.) (past obligation)
You needn't have come yesterday.
(But you came.) (past no-necessity)
You might have told me that earlier.
(But you didn't.) (mild reproach)

3.11 Used to express politeness or polite request

Sometimes we use the conditional clause introduced by ***if*** (with past tense or future in the past) to express polite request or show politeness or sound more tentative, they are indicative mood (also see 18) in **5**). For example:

*I'd be grateful **if you would come a little earlier in future***. (Alexander et al., 1977, p.208)
*It would help us **if you would fill up the form in duplicate**.*
***If you would care/like/prepare to take a seat**, I'll let Meiqin know you're here.*
*It would be nice **if you helped me a little with the housework***. (Swan, 1980, p.305)

*Would it be all right **if I came round at about seven?***

4 Subjunctive or indicative

Much has been discussed above regarding the use of subjunctive mood. We can find different tenses used in real conditional and unreal clauses. For a better understanding description of subjunctive mood and indicative mood, a contrast is further shown among different situations below as follows:

Situation A:

    (a) *If these shoes **fitted** me, I **would buy** them.*
        (The fact is that these shoes do not fit me, so I won't buy them. It is contrary to the present fact - predicative conditional. The time referred to by the subjunctive is present.)

    (b) *If these shoes **fit** me, I **will buy** them.*
        (The speaker doesn't know whether the shoes fit him or not. They may or may not fit him, but there is the possibility of their being fit; hence the indicative. This is a real conditional – predicative. The time referred to is rather future.)

Situation B:

    (a) Suppose John planned to leave on business at six p.m. yesterday, and at seven a fire broke out in his apartment building, loss of lives being reported. We don't know whether or not he left as planned. But
    (1) *If he **left** at six as planned, he **must be** safe now.*
    (2) *If he **did not leave** at six, he **may have perished**.*

Both possibilities exist. So long as there is the possibility, we use the indicative mood in either case. This is implicational conditional.

    (b) In the above instance, suppose we know for sure that for some reason or other John did not leave after all, that he was at home when the fire broke out, and that he was, among others, burnt to death. We will perhaps say:

        *If he **had left**, he **would not have perished**.*
        (The fact was that he did not leave as planned and he was killed; hence the subjunctive, contrary to the past fact.)

We can also use progressive in the main clause, e.g. *If we had caught that plane, we **could have been taking part** in the celebrations.* (Alexander et al., 1977, p.209)

Situation C:

    (a) *It looks **as if it is going** to rain.*

(It is going to rain, by the look of it. The indicative implies possibility.)

(b) *It looks **as if** the blackened sky **were going to** fall.* (contrary to the present fact)
(It is impossible for the sky to fall; hence the subjunctive mood – contrary to the present fact.)

Situation D:
(a) *They **would not have succeeded without** effort.* (contrary to the past fact)
= They wouldn't have succeeded if they had not made every effort.
(The fact was that they made their effort. *Without effort* is a supposition against the fact; hence the subjunctive mood – contrary to the past fact. Also see **3.10.9.**)

(b) *They **did not succeed without** their effort.*
(This is a past fact; hence the indicative mood.)
= If they didn't make effort, they didn't succeed.
= When/Becasue they didn't make effort, they didn't succeed.

(c) *One **cannot succeed without** effort.* (indicative)
(This means that if one doesn't exert oneself, one won't succeed, and that if one does, one will. The possibility of success or of failure exists; hence the indicative mood. In fact, the indicative present here reflects a general fact.)

Situation E:
(a) *We **could** not live **without** air.*
(The fact is that there is air, so we can live. Here *without* supposes something unreal; hence the subjunctive mood; contrary to the present fact.)
= We *couldn't live* if we *didn't have* air. (Also see **3.10.9**)

(b) *We **cannot handle** a case properly **without** a full knowledge of it.*
(Here *without* supposes something possible; hence the indicative mood. The sentence is a general statement.)

Situation F:
(a) *It is reported that the Air Korea crashed yesterday. Mr. Smith was one of the passengers on board. He **may have been killed** in the crash.*
(Perhaps he was killed in the crash. This is not a groundless anxiety - implicational)
= If he was in that plane, he may have been killed. (indicative)

(b) *It is reported that the Air Korea crashed yesterday, many lives on board being reported lost. Fortunately, Mr. Smith, who* **would have taken** *the plane, was prevented from boarding it at the last moment. Otherwise, he* **might have been killed** *in the crash.*
 (He, of course, was not killed, because he was not on the plane when it crashed. It is unreal past – contrary to the past fact.)
 = If he had taken that plane, Mr. Smith would have died.

It is useful to keep the distinction between *may + have done* form and *might + have done* form as illustrated here, though in modern usage, the ***might*** expression is encroaching on the ***may*** expression. Also see 3.6.1& 3.7.3.

Situation G:
 (a) *If he* **is** *sick, we* **cannot expect** *him to come.*
 (He may be sick, or may not be sick. We don't know exactly. But the possibility of his being sick exists; hence the indicative present tense. This is a conjecture about the present.)
 = If, as we understand, he is sick, we cannot expect him to come.

 (b) *If he* **be** *sick, we* **cannot expect** *him to come*.
 (This is an archaic way saying (a). ***Be*** is a subjunctive present verb. We can insert ***should***, i.e. If he *should* be sick, …). Also see **1.6.3**.

 (c) *If he* **should be** *sick, we* **cannot expect** *him to come.*
 (This is more formal way of saying (a). S*hould* is used in such a case "to represent something as a neutral 'idea' rather than a 'fact'. It is indicative. ***Should*** in ***if***-clause expresses a tentative condition (Leech et al., 1974, p.127).

 (d) *If he* **was** *sick yesterday, we perhaps* **cannot expect** *him to come today.*
 (He may or may not have been sick yesterday. We don't know exactly. But the possibility of his being sick existed, hence the indicative past tense. This is a conjecture about the past – explanatory.)
 = If, as you say, he was sick yesterday, we perhaps cannot expect him to come today.

 (e) *If he* **were/was** *sick now, I* **could excuse** *him from attending the meeting*.
 (The fact is that he is not sick now; therefore, contrary to the present fact (predictive); hence the subjunctive past tense. This is a present hypothesis, so *he is not sick now. I cannot excuse him from attending the meeting*.)

 (f) *If he* **had been** *sick, he* **would not have come** *yesterday.*

(The fact was that he was not sick yesterday. So, he came yesterday. The supposition is, therefore, contrary to the past fact (predictive); hence the subjunctive past perfect tense. This is a past hypothesis.)

(g) *If he **is** sick tomorrow, he **won't come** here.* (real conditional)
(There is the possibility of *his being sick tomorrow*; hence the indicative present tense. But the reference is to future time. It will be recalled that the future meaning of an adverbial clause of condition is expressed by the present tense in the *if*-clause.)

(h) *If he **should be** sick tomorrow, he **won't come** here*.
(This is a more formal way of saying (g). "Certainly, it is tentative meaning – there is an indication of unlikeness, but it has no present tense counterpart." (F.R. Palmer, 1978, p.146). predictive: real future)

(i) *If he **be** sick tomorrow, he **won't come** here.*
(This is an archaic way of saying (g); predictive; **be** is a subjunctive present verb.)

(j) *If he **were/was** ill tomorrow, he **wouldn't come** here*.
Here the speaker doesn't think the person spoken of *will be ill tomorrow*. He regards the supposition as entirely impossible; hence the use of the subjunctive past tense in the *if*-clause to indicate a future hypothesis/unlikeliness (unreal future, predictive). As the future is always a contingency quite independent of any human hypothesis, it is advisable not to be so subjective as to make an absolute hypothesis about it by using the subjunctive mood. Sentence (g) will be the normal expression.

Note that we can freely change tenses in both clauses when we use *if* to indicate the real conditional (rarely unreal conditional) with tentative or implicational or predictive meaning. "A statement relating to any time can be made to imply a statement relating to any other time – not merely past and past or present and present" (F. R. Palmer, 1978, p.146). They can have different tenses in the two clauses as we have already described above.

5 Many possible combinations of tense forms

There are many possible combinations of tenses in the main clause and the subsidiary (or conditional) clause (Hornby, 1977, p.229). There is no problem with the "whenever" type. We can freely change tense or phase (F. R. Palmer, 1978, p.146). They do not necessarily indicate subjunctive mood, most of the time it shows indicative mood and has explanatory or implicational or *whenever*-type conditionals (also see 1.4.2). For example:

1) Future Perfect Tense in the main clause and Present Tense in the conditional

*If you **don't hurry** and get there before five o'clock, he'll **have left** the office and gone home.* (real conditional in reference to the future.)

2) Future Tense in the main clause and Present Perfect Tense in the conditional clause

*If he **has finished** his work by five o'clock, we **will be able to** take him with us.*
*If I've **finished** my work by six, I'll probably **watch** a movie.*
*If you've **finished** your homework, you **can/may use** the computer and play games.*
*If you **haven't got** television, you **can't** (= will be unable to) **watch** it.*

Present perfect used in the *if*-clause above emphasizes the completion of an action by a certain expected time in the clause.

3) Present Tense in the main clause and Present Perfect Tense in the conditional clause

*If you **have been travelling** all night, you probably **need** a rest.* (Implicational)
= If it is true that you have been travelling all night, …
*If it **has rained** in the deserts, the flowers **blossom**.* (F. R. Palmer, 1978, p.146)

4) Future Tense in the main clause and Past Tense in the conditional clause. They are
    implicational conditional:

*If Meiqin **promised** to be here, she'**ll** certainly **come**.*
*If Andy **arrived** only last night, he'll probably not **leave** before Friday.*
*If Beibei **broke** her leg in the last match* (If it is true that she did), *she **won't play** again this season.*
*If Andy **left** at nine, he **will** certainly **be** home by midnight.*
*If Marlowe **was** here, he'll **be** in the garden soon.*
If Marlowe **were here, he'll be in the garden soon.*
Cf. *If Marlowe **were** here, he'**d be** in the garden soon.* (subjunctive mood)
*If she **mailed** the letter yesterday, it **won't get** here tomorrow.*

5) Present Tense in the main clause and Past Tense in the conditional clause:

*If she **arrived** only last night, she'**s** unlikely **to leave** today.*
*If you **saw** the movie all night, you probably **need** a rest.*
*If Marlowe **was** here, he'**s** now in the garden.*
*If she **said** that, she **is** an idiot.*
*If she **said** that, she **must be** an idiot.* (implication)

6) Past Tense in the main clause and Past Tense in the conditional clause:

> *If Rine **told** you these things, she **was telling** lies.*
> = When Rine told you these things, she was telling lies.
> *It **was** certainly my girlfriend you saw, if she **had** a large white dog with her.*
> (If it is true that she had ….)
> *If Sandy **was** at the meeting last week, why **didn't** you **speak** to her then?*
> (If, as I understand, Sandy was there, …)
> *If it **was** too cold, we **stayed** indoors.*
> (In such a case, *if* can be replaceable by *when* or *whenever*. They are not subjunctive mood.)
> *If she **said** that, she **was** a fool.*
> *If Rine **told** you that last night, she **was lying**.*

7) Past Tense in the main clause and Present Tense in the conditional clause:

> *If Marlowe **is** here, he **was** in the garden.*

8) Both present Tense in the main clause and in the conditional clause, and *if* is replaceable by *when* in this case. For example:

> *We **stay** in school if it **rains**.* (Alexander et al., 1977, p.88)
> = When it rains, we stay in school.
> *I **don't mind** if it **rains** tomorrow.*
> *If they **study**, they **stay** in their rooms.* (F. R. Palmer, 1978, p.142)
> *If you're **happy**, you **make** others happy.* (Leech, 1978, p.110)
> *If it **rains**, we **don't go** outside.*
> *If Marlowe **is** here, he **is/works** in the garden.*
> *If the doorbell **rings**, the dog **barks**.*
> *If you **heat** iron, it **expands**.*
> *If you **get** lost in the city, **call** me, please.* (imperative in main clause)
> *If the company **fails**, we **lose** our money.*
> *If a baby **is** hungry, it **cries**.*
> *Son, if you **pass** the math test tomorrow, you **are given** $20.*

Note in such a case, *if* can be replaceable by *when* or *whenever* or *every time* or *some time*, because the truth of the one clause follows from the truth of the other, i.e. one thing always follows automatically from another (possible future action). Besides, both Present Tense in the main clause and Present Tense in the conditional clause are also found to express joking or humorous remarks. For example:

*If you **are** the President, I'**m** the Secretary of the State.*
*If you **win**, I **lose**.*
*If I'**m** a fool, you'**re** a coward.*
*If you **move**, you **are** a dead man!*

9) Future Tense in the main clause and Past Perfect Tense in the conditional clause:

*If he **hadn't come** in when you arrived, he **won't come** in at all this morning.*

10) Present Tense in the main clause and Past Perfect Tense in the conditional clause:

*If he **hadn't left** any message when you called, he probably **intends** to be back before you leave.*

11) Present Perfect in the main clause and Past Tense in the conditional clause:

*If she **sent** the letter off on Monday, why **hasn't** it **arrived** by now?*
(If it is true that she sent the letter ….)

12) Present Perfect in the main clause and Present Tense in the conditional clause:

*If you **want** to know, I **haven't seen** him.* (F. R. Palmer, 1978, p.143)
= If you want to know, it is relevant to say that I haven't seen him.
*If my son **is** a genius, I'**ve underestimated** him.* (Leech, 1978, p.111)

13) Both present Perfect in the main clause and in the conditional clause:

*If they'**ve studied**, they'**ve stayed** in their rooms.* (F. R. Palmer, 1978, p.146)
(= Whenever they have studied, they have stayed in their room.)

14) Past Perfect in the main clause and Past Tense in the conditional clause:

*If they ever **won**, they **had** always **trained** hard.* (F.R. Palmer, 1978, p.146)

15) Future Tense in the main clause and Present Progressive Tense in the conditional clause:

*If you **are standing** at the corner when I pass, I'**ll give** you a lift into town.*
(Alexander et al., 1977, p.209)

*If we**'re having** twenty people to the party, we**'ll need** more chairs.*
*If my car **is working** tomorrow morning, I **can drive** you to the airport.*
*If you**'re going** into town, **could** you **mail** this letter for me?*
(**Could** is used here for a future request, a polite way of saying.)
*If Meiqin **is hoping** to borrow the car, Andy's **going to be** disappointed.*
*If it**'s raining** already, I**'m** definitely not **going** out.*

Present continuous tenses are used in the ***if***-clause expresses futurity.

16) Imperative used in the main clause, other tenses used in the *if*-clause:

Come indoors at once if **it rains**.
Imagine being married to a man who snored!
(Imagine being married to a man if he snored.)
*If you **shouldn't** (oughtn't to) do it, **don't do** it.* (Hornby, 1977, p.232)
*If you **should** hear the news, Sandy, **please let** me know.* (tentative)

17) ***Should/could/might, etc***. is used in the main clause and Present Tense in the conditional clause. They are real conditionals.

*If she **comes**, she **should** tell me.* (tentative)
*If you **call** at six, they **might be having** dinner.*
*If I **ask** him, he **would** agree.* (tentative, F. R. Palmer, 1978, p.145)
*If you **behave**, I **might tell** you about it.*
*If you **have** a problem, you **should** (**ought to**) **ask** me to explain it.*
(Alexander et al., 1977, p.121)

When ***should*** indicates duty or (escapable) obligation, it usually cannot be contractible, i.e.,
***You'd** ask me to explain it if you have a problem.*

18) Show politeness or courtesy or impatience or more hesitant, etc. For example:

*It **would help** us if you **would stay** a little longer.* (polite request)
*If you'd (only) **speak** one at a time, I'd **be** able to hear what you have to say.*
(impatient)
*If you **would/should be interested**, I'll **tell** you the whole story.*
(I do not wish to presume that you **are** interested.)
(Alexander et al., 1977, p.208)
*If someone else **has requested** the book, you **would have to give** it back.*
*If you **should** see Meiqin, **will/would** you **ask** her to call me?*

(Here *should* cannot be replaced by *would*. The ***should*** here roughly means "happen" i.e. "If you *happen to* see Meiqin, …" This is an indicative mood.)

"***Would*** you ***mind*** *if I* ***opened*** *the door now?" "No, not all."*

(indicative mood – polite way of asking a permission.)

= Would you mind my/me opening the door now?

Would *it* ***be*** *OK if I* ***brought*** *a friend? Yes, of course.* (more polite, more tentative)

*If you****'d like*** *to see my boss, it* ***would be*** *nice to follow me to his office.* (request)

6 Mixed groups in conditional clauses

Besides what is described above, there are other mixed groups, using any tenses and phases. They do not indicate subjunctive mood.

Will, when it means pure futurity, is normally not used in the *if*-clause (also see **1.6.1**). It may be used, however, to express willingness or refusal (*won't*), or make a request (which is not purely conditional), replaceable by *'ll*, not *shall*, with 2nd and 3rd person subject, and ***would*** is also used in this case (also see **1.6.1**). For example:

If you ***will*** *invite me, I* ***will attend*** *the party.* (willingness)

*If you****'ll*** (= If you will) *just* ***wait***, *Mr. Roser* ***will be*** *with you in a moment.* (request)

If you'll help me, we ***could finish*** *this job quickly.* (willingness/request)

= Please help me so that we may finish this job quickly.

If you ***won't*** (= refuse to) *help us, all our plans* ***will be*** *ruined.* (R. Quirk, et al., 1972, p.781)

If the car ***won't start***, *I'll have to ring* *the garage.* (refusal) (Eastwood, 2002, p.336)

If you ***wouldn't mind*** *waiting for a few minutes, I'll try* *to get my boss*. (request)

If you ***would care*** *to take a seat, I'll let* *my secretary know you're here.* (request)

If you'd just ***sign*** *here, please*. (request - without a main clause)

If you'd ***lend*** *me $100, I* ***could manage*** *until pay day.* (request)

In the 2nd and 3rd persons ***will*** and ***would*** in the affirmative and negative may indicate obstinate determination, the ***will*** and ***would*** always being stressed (Hornby, 1977, p.212). For example:

*If you '****will*** *eat so much pastry, you '****can't complain*** *if you get 'fat.*

*If he '****will*** *go out without telling me first, he* ***won't get*** *my protection anymore.*

*If you '****would go*** *(insisted on going), that* ***was*** *unwise.*

Would (also see **3.11**) is used in the *if*-clause, and ***will*** or ***would*** in the main clause, all of which expresses a more hesitant or a politer effect. For example:

a. *If you* ***would invite*** *me, I* ***will attend*** *the party.*

b. *If you **would invite** me, I **would attend** the party.* (more polite than sentence *a*)
c. *I **should be** most grateful if you **would let** me know as soon as possible.*
d. *I'**d** be obliged to you if you'**d** treat this matter as strictly confidential.*

The sentences above are "frequently used in business or official correspondence, where **should** is generally preferred with *I* or *we*, if only to prevent a repetition of **would**" (R.A. Close, 1975, p.60). Again, this is not a subjunctive, but the indicate mood to show courtesy, commonly used in a formal correspondence: "*I **should be** most grateful if you **would let** me know as soon as possible"* is more courteous than "*I shall be grateful if you **will** reply as soon as possible.*"

The following sentences with **will** or **would** do not suggest willingness:

*I **can lend** you five dollars, if that **will help**.*
*I **could lend** you five dollars, if that **would help**.*

The above sentences simply mean *I can/could lend you five dollars. Will /Would that help?* Again in "*If the play will be cancelled, let's not go,*" F. R. Palmer (1978) mentioned that "The suggestion is that we should not go if the play is going to be cancelled subsequent to our going. The cancellation is future to the going and **will** is retained," so the above sentence is different from "*If the play is cancelled, let's not go*" because the going or the decision not to go follows and results from the cancellation of the play. It is a normal situation for the use of a real conditional clause.

7 Conclusion

There have been a variety of examples cited or given in this article to describe the use of moods. Purposefully, the writer repeated the same description of subjunctive mood and indicative mood, by virtue of many examples throughout the article to let ESL (English as a Second Language) students or ELLs (English language learners) further understand the use of moods. Language is a process of usage, which is always developing and changing. Grammar is made for language and not language for grammar. Therefore, the correct use of all moods is a matter of usage and cannot be explained by all rules. Grammar generalizes usage by deducing, or implying some rules, which are meant not to prescribe, but to guide. The goal of this article is that it will serve as a guide for ESL students, English language learners (ELLs) and their teachers. Any comment or critique is welcome of the article.

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