The mood of a verb indicates the status of the action or condition it describes. Some actions and conditions are factual, while others exist only as possibilities or ideas.

**Indicative mood** is used to make statements and ask questions about factual actions and conditions.

**STATEMENT** Variety shows were popular in the early days of television.

**QUESTION** Were ventriloquists more popular than acrobats?

**Imperative mood** is used to give a command or make a request. The understood subject in a command is you.

**COMMAND** Pick a flower from this bunch.

**Subjunctive mood** is used primarily to express a wish or to refer to actions or conditions that are contrary to fact. The subjunctive form of a verb matches the past form of that verb. The subjunctive form of be is were.

If a variety show were popular now, I might appear as a juggler.

Another subjunctive form is used in formal writing to refer to a request or command.

The top-rated singer insisted that we give him a better dressing room.

### A. Identifying the Mood of a Verb

Indicate the mood of each underlined verb by labeling it with **IND** for indicative, **IMP** for imperative, or **SUBJ** for subjunctive.

1. **Call** your parents when you will be late. ____________

2. Harry Truman became president after the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. ____________

3. **Take** a moment to look over your term paper before you pass it in. ____________

4. The Faculty Advisor urges that the meetings **be** over by 3:30. ____________

5. **Did** the aerobics class **learn** any new dances yesterday? ____________

6. If the school were larger, it could offer a wider variety of classes. ____________

7. The ice-skating rink **opened** last year, and it is the largest in the state. ____________

8. Please **practice** the new songs your clarinet instructor assigned you. ____________

9. I wish that the caterer **had made** two chocolate cakes. ____________

### B. Using Subjunctive Mood

Underline the correct form of each verb in parentheses

1. If you (was, were) to appear on a variety show, what skill would you display?

2. My manager would demand that I (be, am) paid very well, whatever I did.

3. What variety show (was, were) most popular around 1950?

4. Since shows were broadcast live, it was necessary that every act (end, ends) exactly on schedule.

5. How would you feel if the camera (was, were) turned off in the middle of your act?
The Moods of Verbs

A. Changing the Mood of a Verb

On the line to the right, identify the mood of the underlined verb by writing IND, IMP, or SUBJ for indicative, imperative, or subjunctive. Then rewrite the sentence according to the directions in parentheses. Change verb tenses and add or delete words as needed.

1. Will you stop at the traffic lights? (Change to imperative mood.)

2. My little sister thinks that her doll is alive. (Change to subjunctive mood.)

3. Mother asked that we mow the lawn. (Change to indicative mood.)

4. You will have sat here for one hour. (Change to imperative mood.)

5. Is this a magic carpet? If so, we could fly to an enchanted island. (Change to subjunctive mood.)

6. The sign at the roller coaster says, “Stay in your seat till the ride stops!” (Change to subjunctive mood.)

B. Using the Correct Mood of a Verb

Underline the correct form of the verb. On the line to the right, indicate which mood you used. Write IND for indicative, IMP for imperative, or SUBJ for subjunctive mood.

1. When a reporter appears on television, he or she (wear, wears) make-up.

2. If I (was, were) an actress, I would prefer to act on a prime-time series rather than a daytime series.

3. Please (teach, teaches) me how to use the sophisticated camera.

4. If Kyle (were, was) older, he could be a participant on our favorite game show.

5. When a newscaster (make, makes) a mistake, is that speech retaped?

6. “(Wait, Waits) in line if you want to be a member of the studio audience,” ordered the producer.

7. I (was, were) walking up the ramp when a reporter stopped me to ask questions.

8. The talk show host requested that the guests (be, are) introduced to her before the show began.
The Moods of Verbs

A. Using the Correct Mood

Imagine that all the game shows on television joined forces and held a competition to choose contestants. To be invited onto a show, you must write a short essay explaining why you want to appear on that show and what you think you would do as a guest there. Write your application below. Include in your passage at least two verbs in the indicative mood, at least two in the imperative mood, and at least two in the subjunctive mood. After each verb, write IND, IMP, or SUBJ in parentheses to identify its mood.

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
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_____________________________________________________________________________________________

B. Proofreading for Correct Mood

Below is an application for the contest described in Exercise A, but it fails to follow the directions completely, and it includes several errors in verb moods. Revise the passage to include verbs in the moods described in the above directions, used correctly. Write the correct verb above any incorrect verb.

If I was (IND) a contestant on the show “Leapfrog,” I would be the quickest jumper to compete. You tell (IMP) me to hop and crawl down the line of contestants, and you will find me to be the best entertainment for the audience. I be practicing (SUBJ) the game of Leapfrog every day since I was a young child. In addition, I insist that no prizes are (IND) awarded to me since I will gain enough satisfaction from competing in my favorite game on national television. Were (SUBJ) the last winner you had as talented as I am? No! I think you should pick (IMP) me because it has always been my dream to amaze the audience with my leaping and crawling abilities.