

# FRENCH SUBJUNCTIVE LESSON



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## French Present Subjunctive

### What is the subjunctive?

Use the subjunctive mood when what you're saying includes an element of doubt.

- The present subjunctive refers to actions or states of being in the *present or future*.
- Use the subjunctive when the sentence contains a dependent and a main clause.
- The dependent and main clauses are connected by the word *QUE*.
- One of the clauses will demonstrate a **WEIRDO** condition.

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- If what follows **QUE** is *subjective* in nature, you must use the subjunctive.

What does WEIRDO mean?

This is an acronym that will help you remember when to use the subjunctive.

### WEIRDO VERBS

<b>W</b>	<b>W</b> ishing / wanting
<b>E</b>	<b>E</b> motion
<b>I</b>	<b>I</b> mpersonal expressions
<b>R</b>	<b>R</b> equest / require / recommend
<b>D</b>	<b>D</b> oubt / demand / deny
<b>O</b>	<b>O</b> pinions

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What do sentences with a main and dependent clause connected by **QUE** look like? Here are some examples.

## Wishing / Wanting

*Je voudrais que* \_\_\_\_\_.

*Je voudrais* means *I would like*, so it demonstrates wanting.

The *Je voudrais* and the \_\_\_\_\_ are connected by **QUE**.

Just because *I want* **THAT** \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't mean you're actually going to do it.

## Emotions

*Je suis* \_\_\_\_\_

*Je suis* \_\_\_\_\_ means *I am* \_\_\_\_\_, so it demonstrates an emotion.

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*Je suis \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are connected by **QUE**.*

*I am \_\_\_\_\_ **THAT** \_\_\_\_\_.*

So why use the subjunctive in this example? There's not really a doubt associated with \_\_\_\_\_, but anytime you're expressing an emotion, you need to use it.

### **Impersonal expressions**

*Il est \_\_\_\_\_ que \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Il est \_\_\_\_\_ means \_\_\_\_\_, so that's an impersonal expression.*

*Il est \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are connected by **QUE**.*

*It is \_\_\_\_\_ **THAT** \_\_\_\_\_, but just because it's \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't necessarily mean it's going to happen.*

### **Requests / Requirements / Recommendations**

*Je \_\_\_\_\_ que \_\_\_\_\_*

*Je \_\_\_\_\_ means \_\_\_\_\_, so that's a recommendation.*

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Je \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are joined by **QUE**.

Just because / \_\_\_\_\_ **THAT** \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't mean it's going to happen.

## **Demands / doubts / denying**

*Il faut que* \_\_\_\_\_

*Il faut* means *It is necessary*, so that's a demand.

You can easily use *Il faut* followed by an infinitive and avoid the subjunctive altogether, but many times you'll want to say *Il faut que* followed by another clause that begins with a subject.

In this example, *Il faut* and \_\_\_\_\_ are joined by **QUE**.

Just because *It is necessary* **THAT** \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't mean \_\_\_\_\_ do it.

## **Opinions**

*Je ne crois pas que* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Je ne crois pas* means *I don't believe*, so that demonstrates an *opinion*.

*Je ne crois pas* and \_\_\_\_\_ are connected by **QUE**.

Just because *I don't believe* **THAT** \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't necessarily mean that it's not.

## How to Form the Present French Subjunctive

Before doing some exercises together I will show you how to form the subjunctive. There are just a few irregular verbs to learn. As you may have guessed, the irregular verbs are the ones we use all the time.

### How to form the stem / radical


- The stem is what you'll add the subjunctive endings to.
- Take -ENT off of the 3rd person plural form of the present tense verb

<i>Il faut</i>	<i>It is necessary</i>
<i>que</i>	<i>that</i>

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<i>It is necessary <b>THAT</b> _____.</i>	<i>Il faut que _____</i>
_____	<i>This part of the sentence needs the subjunctive. Just because it's necessary doesn't mean we're going to do it.</i>

### The verb «ÉCRIRE»: Present subjunctive

How do you form the stem / radical?	3rd person plural (indicative): Ils écrivent
	Take the -ENT off of the 3rd person plural form of the verb.
	Écriv- This is your stem
	Now add the subjunctive endings.
What are the subjunctive endings?	This is the present subjunctive of the verb <i>écrire</i> .
<b>e</b>	<b>que j'écrive</b>

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<b>es</b>	que tu écrives
<b>e</b>	qu'il écrive qu'elle écrive qu'on écrive
<b>ions</b>	que nous écrivions
<b>iez</b>	que vous écriviez
<b>ent</b>	qu'ils écrivent
<b>ent</b>	qu'elles écrivent

## Stem-Changing Verbs in the French Subjunctive

- Verbs that are *stem changing* in the present indicative are the same in the subjunctive.
- Keep the same *stem* in the *je, tu, il / elle / on, and ils / elles* forms.
- Only the *nous and vous* forms that will be different, and the same is true in the regular present tense.

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- We will look at only 4 *stem changing* verbs, but know that the same rule applies to other verbs in the same category.

## Boire

*Form the stem the regular way: ils boivent, take off -ENT, and it becomes BOIV-*

*Only nous and vous will have a different stem.*

que je boive	que nous <b>buvions</b>
que tu boives	que vous <b>buviez</b>
qu'il boive	qu'ils boivent
qu'elle boive	qu'elles boivent
qu'on boive	

## Envoyer

*Form the stem the regular way: Nous and vous have an irregular stem.*

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Take *-ENT* off of the 3rd person plural form and you have the stem *ENVOIE-*

que j'envoie	que nous <b>envoyions</b>
que tu envoies	que vous <b>envoyiez</b>
qu'il envoie qu'elle envoie qu'on envoie	qu'ils envoient qu'elles envoient

## Prendre

*Nous and vous* have an irregular stem; take *-ENT* off of the 3rd person plural form and you have the stem *PRENN-*

que je prenne	que nous <b>prenions</b>
que tu prends	que vous <b>preniez</b>
qu'il prenne qu'elle prenne	qu'ils prennent qu'elles prennent

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qu'on prenne	
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Venir

*Nous* and *vous* have irregular stems. Take *-ENT* off of the 3rd person plural form and you have the stem *VIENN-*

que je vienne	que nous <b>venions</b>
que tu viennes	que vous <b>veniez</b>
qu'il vienne	qu'ils viennent
qu'elle vienne	qu'elles viennent
qu'on vienne	

Verbs with irregular stems (and regular endings)

Verbs with one stem

## Faire

que je fasse	que nous fassions
que tu fasses	que vous fassiez
qu'il fasse qu'elle fasse qu'on fasse	qu'ils fassent qu'elles fassent

## Pouvoir

que je puisse	que nous puissions
que tu puisses	que vous puissiez
qu'il puisse qu'elle puisse	qu'ils puissent qu'elles puissent

## Savoir

que je sache	que nous sachions
que tu saches	que vous sachiez
qu'il sache qu'elle sache qu'on sache	qu'ils sachent qu'elles sachent

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## Verbs with two stems

### Aller (aill- / all-)

que j'aile	que nous allons
que tu ailles	que vous alliez
qu'il aille qu'elle aille qu'on aille	qu'ils aillent qu'elles aillent

### Vouloir (veill- / voul-)

que je veuille	que nous voulions
que tu veuilles	que vous vouliez
qu'il veuille qu'elle veuille qu'on veuille	qu'ils veuillent qu'elles veuillent

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## Verbs with irregular stems (an irregular endings)

Avoir

que j'aie	que nous ayons
que tu aies	que vous ayez
qu'il ait qu'elle ait qu'on ait	qu'ils aient qu'elles aient

Être

que je sois	que nous soyons
que tu sois	que vous soyez
qu'il soit qu'elle soit qu'on soit	qu'ils soient qu'elles soient

## Exercises to practice the French subjunctive

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- See the written questions here, and I'll tell you the answers in the video.
- In the first exercise, put all verbs in the present subjunctive.
- In the second exercise, you need to decide between the subjunctive and the indicative.

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