

Grade 9

English Home Language

MOOD of VERBS

Say it with ATTITUDE!

This is not to be confused with mood in comprehension, visual literacy and poetry. Mood in grammar has to do with how *sure* the speaker is about what they are saying.

Mood is the attitude a verb conveys in a sentence. Changing the verb's mood will change the tone of the sentence.

Moods are mainly expressed in English by using punctuation and different types of verbs. There are five moods:

IMPERATIVE MOOD

is used to express a command or request and normally uses an exclamation mark:

E.g. "Do your homework!"

SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD

can express wishes, doubt, contradictions or something contrary to facts. Something is not factual, but probable, unlikely, hoped for, or feared.

These are the clauses that often start with "If," "I wish that," "I hope that," or "I desire that", "I suggest", "It is necessary".

In the indicative, we would say "I was," but in the hypothetical subjunctive, we would use the verb form "were." Keep in mind that not all clauses that begin with "If" are contrary to fact.

Examples:

"You will have to practise more if you want to do well at football."

o **Recommendation or Suggestion:** *I suggest that she take Spanish next semester.*

o **Necessity:** *It is necessary that Tom be home by dark.*

o **Wish or hope:** *God bless you!*

o *"If this be treason!" said Patrick Henry (not stating that it is treason)*

2. *It states a condition or wish that is contrary to fact.*

Examples:

o *"If this be treason!" said Patrick Henry (not stating that it is treason)*

o **Condition that is contrary to fact:** *If Sarah were the principal, things might be a lot better.*

It normally uses a conjunction like "if", combined with "would", "could", "were", or "will":

o Wish that is contrary to fact: *I wish I were a genius.*

INDICATIVE MOOD

is used to express facts and opinions. It looks like a normal sentence with no special punctuation or verb forms:

E.g. *"The sports reporter wrote about the match."*

INTERROGATIVE MOOD

expresses a state of questioning. You will often notice inversion in the order of subject and verb. Look for the question words "who, what, when, where, why." They also start with auxiliary verbs. "is, are, were, am, did, do."

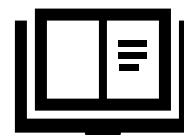
E.g. *"Is she happy?"*

CONDITIONAL MOOD

indicates a conditional state that will cause something else to happen. Often uses the words "might", "could", or "would."

E.g. *"She could be happy."*

SUMMARISED!



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

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

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

The **interrogative mood** asks questions.

The **indicative mood** is used to express facts and opinions

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

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

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

ACTIVITY

1 Compare the sentences below. Explain how they differ in meaning. (Focus on their functions)

- a) If I were you , I would slam dunk that ball.
- b) Slam dunk that ball immediately!
- c) Michael Wilson slam dunked that ball.
- d) Who slam dunked the ball in the last minute?

2 Each of the sentences above are set in a different mood.

- a) In which sentence is the speaker completely sure what they are saying?
- b) In which sentence is the speaker doubtful about what they are saying?
- c) In which sentence is the speaker just stating a fact?
- d) In which sentence is the speaker asking a question?

3 Match each of the sentences in question 1 to a mood.

4 Which moods are these sentences in?

- a) Don't assume that he's a hero!
- b) If he were superman, he could jump three metres high.
- c) These achievements are reserved for "freak shows" and *Oprah*.
- d) Did you hear a noise?
- e) She might be late for her English class.