

Subjunctive (*I suggest you do*)

A

Study this example:

Why don't you buy some new clothes?



Lisa said to Mary, "Why don't you buy some new clothes?"

Lisa suggested (that) Mary buy some new clothes.

The *subjunctive* is always the same as the *base form* (I buy, he buy, she buy, etc.).

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| I/he/she/it we/you/they | do/buy/be, etc. |
|----------------------------|-----------------|

B

We use the subjunctive after these verbs:

suggest propose recommend insist demand

- I **suggest** (that) you take a vacation.
- The doctor **recommended** (that) I rest for a few days.
- They **insisted** (that) we have dinner with them.
- I **insisted** (that) he have dinner with us.
- He **demanded** (that) she apologize to him.

The negative is **not** + the base form (I **not be**, you **not leave**, she **not go**, etc.):

- The doctor recommended that I **not go** to work for two days.
- They insisted that he **not bring** them a present.

You can use the subjunctive for the present, past, or future:

- I **insist** (that) you come with us.
- They **insisted** (that) I go with them.

Note the subjunctive **be** (often *passive*):

- I insisted (that) something **be done** about the problem.
- The chairperson proposed (that) the plans **be changed**.
- The airline recommends that passengers **be** two hours early.

C

Other structures are possible after **insist** and **suggest**:

- They **insisted on my having** dinner with them. (See Unit 59A.)
- It was a beautiful evening, so I **suggested going** for a walk. (See Unit 50.)

You cannot use the *infinitive* after **suggest**:

- She **suggested that he buy** some new clothes. (*not suggested him to buy*)
- What do you **suggest I do?** (*not suggest me to do*)

Exercises

32.1 Write a sentence that means the same as the first sentence. Begin in the way shown. Some sentences are negative.

1. "Why don't you buy some new clothes?" said Lisa to Mary.
Lisa suggested that Mary buy some new clothes.
2. "You really must stay a little longer," she said to me.
She insisted that _____.
3. "Why don't you visit the museum after lunch?" I said to her.
I suggested that _____.
4. "I think it would be a good idea to see a specialist," the doctor said to me.
The doctor recommended that _____.
5. "It would be a good idea for you not to lift anything heavy," the specialist said to me.
The specialist recommended that _____.
6. "You have to pay the rent by Friday at the latest," the landlord said to the tenant.
The landlord demanded that _____.
7. "Why don't you go away for a few days?" Josh said to me.
Josh suggested that _____.
8. "You shouldn't give your children snacks right before mealtime," the doctor told me.
The doctor suggested that _____.
9. "Let's have dinner early," Sarah said to us.
Sarah proposed that _____.

32.2 Complete these sentences with an appropriate verb.

1. I suggest that you take a vacation.
2. I insisted that something be done about the problem.
3. Our friends recommended that we _____ our vacation in the mountains.
4. Since Dave hurt Tracy's feelings, I strongly recommended that he _____ to her.
5. The workers at the factory are demanding that their wages _____ raised.
6. She doesn't use her car very often, so I suggested that she _____ it and use the money for something else.
7. Lisa wanted to walk home alone, but we insisted that she _____ for us.
8. The city council has proposed that a new shopping center _____ built.
9. What do you suggest I _____ to the party? A dress?
10. I didn't want her to come to the party, but Sam insisted that she _____ invited.

32.3 Tom is out of shape, and his friends made some suggestions:

Why don't you try jogging?



LINDA

How about walking to work in the morning?



SANDRA

Eat more fruit and vegetables.



BILL

Why don't you take vitamins?



ANNA

Write sentences telling what Tom's friends suggested.

1. Linda suggested that he try jogging.
2. Sandra suggested that he _____.
3. Bill suggested _____.
4. Anna _____.