


1. will and desire
2. emotion
3. opinion
4. one subject

will and desire

The subjunctive is used in dependent clauses after expressions of will and desire whenever there are two different subjects in the two clauses linked by the subordinating conjunction **que**. Here is a list of common verbs expressing will and desire:


 aimer que , to like that ...	préférer que , to prefer that ...
aimer mieux que , to prefer that ...	souhaiter que , to hope that ...
attendre que , to wait, expect that ...	vouloir que , to want that ...
désirer que , to desire that ...	vouloir bien que , to be willing that ...
exiger que , to require that ...	

Tex **veut qu'**Edouard **fasse** la cuisine ce soir. Tex wants Edouard to cook this evening.

Note however that **espérer** (to hope) is an exception and is followed by the indicative: 'Tex espère qu'Edouard préparera du couscous ce soir' (Tex hopes that Edouard will prepare couscous this evening). Remember that when there is only one subject, the conjugated verb is followed by an infinitive: 'Edouard ne veut pas faire la cuisine' (Edouard does not want to cook).

emotion

The subjunctive is used after expressions of emotion and opinion. Remember that the subjunctive is found in the subordinate clause of sentences that contain a change of subject from the main clause to the subordinate clause. Here is a list of common expressions of emotion with which the subjunctive is found in the subordinate clause:

 être content(e) que , to be happy that	être impatient(e) que , to be impatient that
être heureux(/se) que , to be happy that	être désolé(e) que , to be sorry that
être ravi(e) que , to delighted that	regretter que , to regret that
être étonné(e) que , to be surprised that	se réjouir que , to rejoice, celebrate that
être mécontent(e) que , to be unhappy that	craindre que , to fear that
être malheureux(/se) que , to be unhappy that	redouter que , to fear that
être triste que , to be sad that	avoir peur que , to fear that
être surpris(e) que , to be surprised that	

Tammy **est ravie que** nous **venions** dîner chez elle ce soir.

Tammy is delighted that we are coming to dinner at her house this evening

OR

Tammy's delighted that we will come to dinner at her house this evening.

Fiona **craint qu'**on **mette** un pesticide autour de l'immeuble de Tammy.

Fiona is afraid that they're putting pesticides around Tammy's apartment building.

OR

Fiona is afraid that they will put pesticides

around Tammy's apartment building.



Notice how there are two ways of translating these two sentences. Because the subjunctive is the tense for hypotheses and potentialities, it sometimes has a future meaning. Only the context will determine if the action in the subjunctive refers to the present or future time.

opinion

Here is a list of common impersonal expressions of opinion; there are many more such expressions since any adjective may be used. Remember that impersonal expressions always have 'il' as the subject. These expressions are followed by a dependent clause in the subjunctive.



il est bon que, it is good that

il est juste que, it is fair that

il est dommage que, it is unfortunate that

il est utile que, it is useful that

il est urgent que, it is urgent that

il est logique que, it is logical that

one subject

If expressions of emotion or opinion have only one subject throughout the sentence, then the preposition **de** + infinitive replaces **que** + subjunctive (See [ways to avoid the subjunctive](#)). Contrast the previous examples with these sentences:



Tammy **est ravie de recevoir** des amis.

Fiona **craint de ne pas pouvoir** venir.

Il est bon de pouvoir s'amuser avec ses amis.

Tammy is delighted to have friends over.

OR

Tammy is delighted she's going to have friends over.

Fiona is afraid she cannot come.

OR

Fiona is afraid she won't be able to come.

It is good to be able to have fun with one's friends.

Listen to the dialogue. Verbs in blue are in the subjunctive.



Tex et Tammy organisent un repas pour leurs copains ce soir.

Tammy: Tex, je voudrais que tu **choisisses** un bon vin. Mais je préfère que ce **soit** un rouge s'il te plaît. Il serait dommage que nous **buivions** du vin blanc avec du boeuf.

Tex réfléchit un moment, puis il choisit un vin californien.

Tammy: Mais enfin Tex, pas un vin

Tex and Tammy are preparing a meal for their friends tonight.

Tammy: Tex, I would like you to pick a good wine. But I would prefer a red wine please. It would be a pity to drink a white wine with beef.

Tex reflects a moment and then he chooses a Californian wine.

Tammy: Tex! Not an American wine! It

américain! Il serait préférable que nous **ouvrons** une bouteille de Bordeaux ou de Bourgogne!

Tex: Ma chère Tammy, j'ai bien peur que nous n'**ayons** plus de vins français en réserve!

Tammy: Tu es sûr? Je suis étonnée qu'il n'y **ait** plus de vin français.

would be better if we opened a bottle of Bordeaux or Burgundy!

Tex: My dear Tammy, I am afraid we're out of French wines!

Tammy: Are you sure? I'm really surprised that there isn't any more French wine.



exercices

fill in the blanks

Complete each sentence with either the present subjunctive or the present indicative of the verbs in parentheses.

1. Tammy ne veut pas que Tex _____ un vin californien.(choisir)
2. Tammy est ravie que leurs amis _____ dîner chez elle. (venir)
3. Bette a peur que Tex _____ vraiment amoureux de Tammy.(être)
4. Fiona craint qu'il y _____ de l'Amdro sur le campus.(avoir)
5. Tex exige que ses étudiants _____ en France pour les vacances.(aller)
6. Trey a envie que Tammy _____ du skate-board avec lui.(faire)
7. Il est bon que Tex _____ le Daily Texan tous les jours.(lire)
8. Bette espère que Tex _____ amoureux d'elle.(tomber)
9. Tammy est surprise quand Trey _____ qu'il veut sortir avec elle.(dire)
10. Rita exige que ses enfants _____ leurs devoirs.(faire)
11. Trey voudrait que Tammy _____ jouer du rap.(pouvoir)
12. Il est essentiel que les étudiants _____ conjuguer le subjonctif.(savoir)