

Y6 Subjunctive Mood

KS2 Y6 English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Make formal: 'If I was you, I'd say sorry.'

Step 1 · Is the 'if' situation true?

No: I am not you. It is imagined.

Step 2 · Change was → were

If I were you

Step 3 · Make the rest formal too

I'd → I would; say sorry → apologise

Answer: If I were you, I would apologise.

Check: 'were' with 'I' marks the imagined situation.

2. Now try one with the steps

Make formal: 'The rules say that every visitor signs in.'

Step 1 · Use a formal verb of demand

Step 2 · After 'require that', use the bare verb

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. Complete with the subjunctive: 'If I ____ a bird, I would fly south.'

2. Rewrite formally: 'I wish I was taller.'

3. Rewrite formally: 'If he was older, he could vote.'

4. Complete: 'The doctor recommends that she ____ (rest) for a week.'

5. Complete: 'It is vital that everyone ____ (be) silent.'
6. Which word is subjunctive in: 'I demand that he leave now'?
7. Rewrite formally: 'The school asks that each pupil wears a blazer.'
8. Is the subjunctive formal or informal?
9. Rewrite starting with 'Were': 'If you needed help, I would come.'
10. Rewrite starting with 'Were': 'If it rained, the fair would be cancelled.'
11. Correct the sentence: 'The committee insisted that the report is finished by May.'
12. Should 'was' change to 'were' here? 'If the parcel was delivered, nobody signed for it.'
13. Write a formal sentence beginning 'If I were...' for a speech about your school.
14. Name two verbs that are often followed by the subjunctive.

4. Before you hand it in

If I was invisible, I would explore the castle.

If I were invisible, I would explore the castle.

The coach demands that each player brings water.

The coach demands that each player bring water.

Using 'were' after every 'if': 'If it were raining this morning, I didn't notice.'

If it was raining this morning, I didn't notice.

Using the subjunctive in a chatty text: 'Were you to fancy pizza, text me!'

Keep it for formal writing: 'Fancy pizza? Text me!'