

Imperfect Subjunctive

The imperfect subjunctive is formed for all verbs by dropping the "-ron" ending of the "ellos" preterit form and replacing it with "-ra" or "-se" endings:

Trabajar (begin with trabajaron)

Poder (begin with pudieron)

Dormir (begin with durmieron)

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Yo | Trabajara | Trabajase | Pudiera | Pudiese | Durmiera | Durmiese |
| Tú | Trabajaras | Trabajases | Pudieras | Pudieses | Durmieras | Durmieses |
| Él, Ella, Ud. | Trabajara | Trabajase | Pudiera | Pudiese | Durmiera | Durmiese |
| Nosotros | Trabajáramos | trabajásemos | Pudiéramos | Pudiésemos | Durmiéramos | Durmiésemos |
| Ellos, Ellas, Uds. | Trabajaran | Trabajasen | Pudieran | Pudiesen | Durmieran | durmiesen |

NOTE: There are **NO IRREGULAR VERBS** other than whatever irregularities exist in the preterit form.

Uses of the Imperfect Subjunctive

- Like the present subjunctive, the imperfect subjunctive follows WEIRDO. In fact the two subjunctives function identically except in tense. A verb of emotion in present tense will signal the use of present subjunctive. The same verb of emotion in the past will use the imperfect subjunctive. See the chart below for a complete list of sequencing of tenses:

| Main Clause Verb | Dependent Clause Verb |
|---|--|
| Present Tense Present Perfect Tense Future Tense Command | Present Subjunctive or Present Perfect Subjunctive |
| Preterit Tense Imperfect Tense Past Perfect (Pluscuamperfecto) Tense Conditional Tense | Imperfect Subjunctive or Past Perfect (Pluscuamperfecto) Subjunctive |

EXAMPLES WITH PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE:

- Prefiero que él no hable. (Present ⇒ Present Subjunctive)
- He pedido que nos traigan el dinero. (Present Perfect ⇒ Present Subjunctive)
- Lo sentiré mucho si ella no pueda visitarnos. (Future ⇒ Present Subjunctive)
- Dígale que abra la puerta. (Command ⇒ Present Subjunctive)

EXAMPLES WITH IMPERFECT SUBJUNCTIVE:

- Prefería que él no hablara. (Imperfect ⇒ Imperfect Subjunctive)
- Había pedido que ellos nos trajeran el dinero. (Past Perfect ⇒ Imperfect Subjunctive)
- Lo sentiría mucho si ella no pudiera visitarnos. (Conditional ⇒ Imperfect Subjunctive)
- Le dije que abriera la puerta. (Preterit ⇒ Imperfect Subjunctive)

2. "Si" clauses that express hypothetical, improbable, or contrary-to-fact situations.

"Si" Clause

(Always takes Imperfect Subjunctive)

Simple Imperfect Subjunctive

Si tuviera el dinero.....compraría un Porsche.

Past Perfect Subjunctive

Si hubiera tenido el dinero.....habría comprado un Porche.

"Result Clause"

(Always takes Conditional)

Subjunctive Simple Conditional

Conditional Perfect

3. With the expression "*como si*" (as if), the imperfect subjunctive or past perfect subjunctive is always used. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

4. Instead of the conditional, Spanish speakers often use "*quisiera*" and "*podiera*" for "would like" and "could/would be able".