

Keep and use this sheet as a reference; it is not intended as a list of expressions to memorize. The list gives the most common expressions that trigger the subjunctive, but it is not exhaustive. Of greatest importance is that you know and are familiar with the general category (e.g., "expressions of will"), that you understand it, and that you see how the various expressions in the category fit the general description. You should memorize some expressions for each category.

Remember that these expressions require the subjunctive when the subject of the main clause and the subject of the dependent clause are different; when the subject of both verbs is the same, most of these expressions will be used in infinitive constructions. (E.g.: Je préfère qu'elle parte, BUT Je préfère partir.)

EXPRESSIONS OF DESIRE, RECOMMENDATION OR WILL [*volonté*]. The subject of the main clause will **always** be a person or persons (je, elle, nous, etc.), and **not** an impersonal IL. The verb or expression indicates the subject's desires, wishes, preferences, or commands:

aimer mieux que [*to prefer*]
attendre que
s'attendre à ce que [*to expect*]
commander que
demander que
désirer que

empêcher que [*to prevent*]
exiger que [*to demand*]
insister pour que
interdire que [*to forbid*]
s'opposer à ce que
préférer que

proposer que
souhaiter que [*to wish*]
suggérer que
tenir à ce que [*to insist*]
vouloir que

EXPRESSIONS OF FEELING OR EMOTION. The subject of the main clause is **always** a person or persons (je, elle, nous, etc.), and **not** an impersonal IL. The verb or expression indicates the subject's feelings or emotions about information in the following clause (e.g., fear, surprise, happiness, sadness, regret).

avoir peur que
craindre que
regretter que

être + ADJECTIF que (e.g.: JE SUIS affligé que / content que / désolé / étonné / fâché / heureux / mécontent / ravi / satisfait / surpris / triste / etc.)

EXPRESSIONS OF OPINION, JUDGMENT, NECESSITY. The subject of the main clause will **almost always** be an impersonal IL, **not** a person or persons. The expression indicates a judgment or opinion about the action in the following clause.

Il vaut mieux que
Il faut que / Il ne faut pas que
Il est ... bon / dommage / essentiel / honteux / important / nécessaire / normal / préférable / ridicule / temps que ...

C'est dommage que
Il semble* que
*BUT NOTE: Il me semble que + INDICATIF

EXPRESSIONS OF DOUBT. The subject of the main clause may be **either** an impersonal IL, **or** a person or persons, depending on the expression. The main clause indicates that there is doubt or uncertainty about the statement in the following clause.

douter que (JE doute que ...; ELLE doute que ...; etc.)

Il est douteux que [doubtful that]
Il est impossible que
Il est improbable / peu probable que
Il est possible que

SPECIAL CASES: **croire / penser / espérer / trouver**. These four verbs, when used affirmatively, are followed by the indicative. In the negative or in the form of a question, they are often (not always) followed by the subjunctive, since they tend to cast doubt upon the following clause.

Affirmative:

Je crois qu'il a raison.
Il espère qu'elle viendra.
Nous pensons qu'elle est malade.

Negative or interrogative:

Je **ne** crois **pas** qu'il ait raison.
Elle **n'**espère **plus** qu'il vienne.
Pensez-vous qu'elle soit malade?

EXPRESSIONS OF CERTAINTY OR PROBABILITY. By contrast with the expressions of doubt (above), these impersonal expressions all indicate **certitude** (or at least more certitude than doubt) about the action in the following clause. In such cases, **the subjunctive is NOT used**, the indicative is.

Il est évident que
Il est inévitable que
Il est sûr que

Il est vrai que
Il est probable que

Il est évident que cette fille **a** faim.
Il est vrai que je **me sens** fatiguée.
Il est sûr que nous **sommes** perdus.