

Verb Moods

Mood of the verb... Say it with ATTITUDE!

Mood is the attitude a verb conveys in a sentence. Changing the verb's mood will change the tone of the sentence. Verb moods indicate a state of being or reality.

5 moods

- **Indicative:** expresses an assertion, facts, or opinions; the “normal” verb form.
- **Imperative:** expresses command, prohibition, entreaty or advice. This mood is used to give orders or make requests. Often the subject is implied rather than stated.
- **Interrogative:** expresses a state of questioning. You will often notice inversion in the order of subject and verb.
- **Conditional:** indicates a conditional state that will cause something else to happen. Often uses the words might, could, or would.
- **Subjunctive:** expresses doubt or something contrary to fact. Something is not factual, but probable, unlikely, hoped for, or feared. These are the clauses that often start with “If,” “I wish that,” “I hope that,” or “I desire that.” In the indicative, we would say “I was,” but in the hypothetical subjunctive, we would use the verb form “were.” Keep in mind that not all clauses that begin with “If” are contrary to fact.

Indicative	She is happy.
Imperative	Smile! (Note: The subject “you” is implied rather than stated.)
Interrogative	Is she happy? (Note: The subject follows the verb.)
Conditional	She could be happy.
Subjunctive	If she won the lottery, she would be happy. (Note: the 2 nd clause is conditional)

Now, you try! Create your own sentences showing the mood of the verb.

Indicative	
Imperative	
Interrogative	
Conditional	
Subjunctive	

Verb Moods

Learn About It...

The **mood** of a verb refers to the manner in which the verb is expressed.

Most verbs are **indicative** and are used to express statements of fact or opinion.

The **imperative** mood is used to give orders and make requests.

The **interrogative** mood asks questions.

The **conditional** mood expresses a condition or a hypothetical situation.

The **subjunctive** mood can express wishes, doubt, or contradictions.

A **shift** in the verb mood occurs when more than one mood is used in the same sentence. Unnecessary shifts should be avoided.

Verb Moods		
Mood	Sentence	Explanation
Indicative	This book <u>is</u> three hundred pages long	A statement of fact is expressed.
Imperative	<u>Sit</u> in your seat.	A command is given.
Interrogative	<u>Did you hear</u> a noise?	A question is asked.
Conditional	<u>If I study</u> hard, <u>I will do</u> well on the test.	The sentence expresses a hypothetical situation.
Subjunctive	If I <u>were</u> taller, I would play basketball . <u>I wish I were</u> taller.	The subject gives a statement that is contrary to fact or wishes for something.
Shift in verb mood	<u>Raise</u> your hand, and then <u>can you ask</u> your question?	<u>Raise</u> is imperative, while <u>can you ask</u> is interrogative.

Read the following sentences. Write the mood of each verb next to the sentence. Circle the sentence with the shift in mood.

Did you see that huge bug?

Call me when you get home, and then you should start your homework.

Get in this house right now.