**Mood** is a grammatical category which indicates the attitude of the speaker towards the action expressed by the verb from the point of view of its reality.

In Modern English we distinguish three moods: the Indicative Mood, the Imperative Mood, the Subjunctive Mood

**The Indicative Mood** shows that the action or state expressed by the verb is presented as a fact: He *went* home early in the evening.

It is also used to express a real condition, i.e. a condition the realization of which is considered possible. If it *rains*, I *shall stay* at home.

**The Imperative Mood** expresses a command or a request. In Modern English the Imperative Mood has only one form which coincides with the infinitive without the particle ‘to’: Please *put* the papers on the table by the bed.

In forming the negative the auxiliary verb ‘to do’ is always used even with the verb ‘to be’. *Don’t make* a noise! *Don’t be* angry!

A command addressed to the third person singular and plural is usually expressed with the help of the verb ‘to let’: *Let* the child *go* home at once.

With the first person plural the verb ‘to let’ is used to express an exhortation to a join action: *Let’s go* and *have* some fresh coffee.

**The Subjunctive Mood** shows that the action or state expressed by the verb is presented as a non fact, as something imaginary or desired. The Subjunctive Mood is also used to express an emotional attitude of the speaker to real facts. In Modern English the Subjunctive Mood has synthetic and analytical forms.

Subjunctive mood forms

1) *synthetic forms*: **the present subjunctive** and **the past subjunctive**.

I. **The present subjunctive** coincides with the plain verb stem (be, go, see) for all persons in both the singular and the plural. It denotes a hypothetical action referring to the present or future.

*I, he, she, it, we, you, they + be, take, resent,* etc.

He required that all be kept secret.

The present subjunctive forms are confined mainly to formal style and formulaic expressions - prayers, wishes, which should be memorized as wholes.

It is natural enough the enemy resent it.

Heaven forbid! The devil take him!

Long live freedom! God save the king!

II. **The past subjunctive** is even more restricted in its usage; it exists in Modern English only in the form **were**, which is used for all persons both in the singular and plural. It refers the hypothetical action to the present or future and shows that it contradicts reality.

If I were you!

If you were there!

If it were true!

2) *non-factual forms: non-factual past indefinite and past continuous, non-factual past perfect and past perfect continuous*

The non-factual past indefinite and past continuous are used to denote hypothetical actions in the present or future; the non-factual past perfect and past perfect continuous denote hypothetical actions in the past.

If I had … , If only I had known … , If he came …

He smiled as if he were enjoying the situation.

3) *analytical forms: should / would + infinitive, may / might + infinitive*

However much you may argue, he will do as he pleases (expresses possibility).

I wish I could help you (expresses ability).

If you would agree to visit my uncle, ... (expresses wish).

The subjunctive mood and the tense category

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Referring to the Present or Future**  I fear lest he *should escape.*  He *would phone* you.  I suppose he *should be working* in the library. | **Referring to the Past**  I fear lest he *should have escaped.*  He *would have phoned* you.  I suppose he *should have been working* in the library. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Referring to the Present or Future**  If I *knew.*  I wish I *were warned* when the time-table is changed. | **Referring to the Past**  If I *had known*.  I wish I *had been warned.* |

SET EXPRESSIONS

Be that as it may…

Come what may

Heaven forbid!

God bless you.

God save the Queen!

Long live the King!

Thy will be done.

Heaven help us all.

Perish the thought!

far be it from me

if it please the court

suffice it to say

Success attend you!

Be ours a happy meeting!

So be it.

Manners be hanged.

as luck would have it / as ill luck would have it

as it were

The Devil take him!

Confound your ideas!

**Wish-clauses**

1. **wish** + past subjunctive / could + bare infinitive - *wishes about the present*: I wish I **were** more patient. I wish I **could ride** a bicycle.
2. **wish** + would + bare infinitive – *impossible wish for a future change*: I wish he **would study** for his exam.
3. **wish** + non-factual Past Perfect – regrets about the past: I wish I had gone to Ann’s party last night.

**CONDITIONALS**

*Present and Future Real Conditionals*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Present Conditionals | | Future Conditionals | |
| If clause | Result clause | If clause | Result clause |
| If it is hot, | I drink iced tea. | If it rains, | I will close the window. |
| If it isn’t hot, | I don’t drink iced tea. | If it doesn’t rain, | I won’t close the window. |

*Present Unreal Conditionals*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Actual situations | Conditionals | |
|  | If clause | Result clause |
| It is rarely hot in Antarctica. | If it were hot in the Antarctica, | it would be unusual. |
| It is usually hot in Egypt. | If it weren’t hot in Egypt, |
| It rarely rains in the Sahara. | If it rained in the Sahara, |
| It usually rains in the jungle. | If it didn’t rain the jungle, |

*Past Unreal Conditionals*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Actual situations | Conditionals | |
|  | If clause | Result clause |
| They stopped, so they were late. | If they hadn’t stopped, | they wouldn’t have been late. |
| They didn’t stop, so they weren’t late. | If they had stopped, | they would have been late. |
| They helped the man, so he sent the gift. | If they hadn’t helped the man, | he wouldn’t have sent the gift. |
| They didn’t help the man, so he didn’t send the gift. | If they had helped the man, | he would have sent the gift. |

*‘Mixed’ Conditionals*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Actual situations | Conditionals | |
|  | If clause | Result clause |
| He didn’t have children, so he is alone. | *past* | *present* |
| If he had had children, | he wouldn’t be alone. |
| His memory is not good, so he didn’t buy his medicine. | *present* | *past* |
| If his memory were good, | he would have bought his medicine. |

*Implied Conditions*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Nonstandard Condition | Implied Condition | Result Clause |
| With a bit of luck, | If we have a bit of luck, | we’ll find a place for her. |
| Without your help, | If you hadn’t helped, | I wouldn’t have succeeded. |
| But for his pension, | If he didn’t have a pension, | he’d have no income. |
| She might be lucky; if so, | If she is lucky, | she’ll meet some new friends. |
| He might get the chance; if not, | If he doesn’t get the chance, | he won’t retire. |
| She is lonely; otherwise, | If she weren’t lonely, | she wouldn’t need company. |

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | If-clause | Main clause | use | examples |
| Type 1. Real present | If + any present form | Future / Imperative / can / may / might / must / should + bare infinitive / Present Simple | Something true / likely to happen in the present / future | If the weather is nice, we’ll have a party out of doors.  If you have a headache, take an aspirin.  If you have done your homework, you can watch TV. |
| Type 2. Unreal present | If + Past Simple / Past Continuous | Would / could / might + bare infinitive | Unreal in the present / used to give advice | If I were you, I wouldn’t speak to him again.  If he didn’t eat so many sweets, he wouldn’t have a problem with his teeth. |
| Type 3. Unreal past | If + Past Perfect / Past Perfect Continuous | Would / could / might + have + past participle | Imaginary situations contrary to facts in the past, also used to express regret / criticism | If she had known how to use the mixer, she wouldn’t have broken it. |

Four types of the conditional sentences:

🙧 *sentences with real condition*: If I have offended you, I’m very sorry.

🙧 *sentences containing unreal condition*: You wouldn’t be talking that way unless you were offended.

🙧 *sentences of split condition*: If we hadn’t been such fools we should all still be together.\

🙧 *sentences / clauses of implied condition*: But for luck he would be still at home.

*sentences with real condition*

1. express real condition;

2. Indicative Mood is used;

3. condition may refer to the past, present, future.

You may go away, if it bothers you.

If I had laughed about it before, I wasn’t laughing now.

*sentences containing unreal condition*

The Subjunctive Mood is used both in the principal and conditional clauses.

The action expressed in the principle clause depends on the unreal condition.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | If-clause | Main clause | Examples |
| To relate actions contradicting reality to the present / future | Non-factual Past Indefinite  Non-factual Past Continuous  Past Subjunctive | Should / would + non-perfect infinitive | I shouldn’t speak to you unless I were determined. |
| To relate actions contradicting reality to the past | Non-factual Past Perfect  Non-factual Past Perfect Continuous | Should / would + perfect / perfect continuous infinitive | If he had not insisted upon her going there, nothing would ever have happened. |

*sentences of split condition*

Actions in the principal and subordinate clauses have different time-reference: the unreal clause may refer to the past the consequence – to the present / future; the condition may refer to no particular time, consequence may refer to the past.

E.g. She wouldn’t have told me her story if she disliked me.

*sentences / clauses of implied condition*

Implied condition is not openly stated in a clause, but is suggested by an adverbial part of the sentence or context: adverbial modifier of condition (but for, except for) + should / would + infinitive

But for me you would be still talking to him.

HAD BETTER – WOULD RATHER

The subjunctive mood forms with ‘**had better**’, ‘**had best**’, ‘**would rather**’, ‘**would sooner**’ are used in sentences denoting wish, admonition, preference, advice. Very often they are used in a contracted form: You’d better go at once. You had best take note of my direction if you wish to make sure of it.

Formulaic expressions with concessive meaning are used in complex sentences as concessive clauses:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Happen what may,  Come what will,  Come what may,  Cost what it may, | we shall not yield. |

The formulaic expression ‘**as it were**’ (так сказать) is used as parenthesis, emphasizing that the content of the sentence is highly figurative or non-real: ... there is, as it were, a transparent barrier between myself and strong emotion.

**Had better** (I’d better / you’d better etc.)

I’d better do something = it is advisable to do it: I have to meet Ann in ten minutes. I’d better go now or I’ll be late. We’d better stop for petrol soon. The tank is almost empty.

The negative is I’d better not (= I had better not): A: Are you going out tonight? – B: I’d better not. I’ve got a lot of work to do.

**Had better and should**

‘Had better’ is similar to ‘should’ but not exactly the same.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| We use ‘had better’ only for a particular situation (not for things in general): It’s cold today. *You’d better wear* a coat when you go out.  With ‘had better’, there is always a danger or a problem if you don’t follow the advice: The film starts at 8.30. *You’d better go* now or you’ll be late. | You can use ‘should’ in all types of situation to give an opinion or to give advice: I think all drivers *should* wear seat belts.  Should only means ‘it is a good thing to do’: It’s a great film. You *should go* and see it (no problem if you don’t). |

**It’s time (for somebody) to do something**

It’s time *to go* home. / It’s time for us *to go* home.

It’s late. It’s time we *went* home.

It’s 10 o’clock and he’s still in bed. It’s time he *got up*.

**It’s time you did something** = ‘you should have done it already or started it’. We often use this structure to criticise or to complain:

It’s time the children **were** in bed. It’s long after their bedtime.

The windows are very dirty. I think it’s time we **cleaned** them.

**It’s about time... / It’s high time ...** . This makes the criticism stronger:

Jack is a great talker. But *it’s about time* he did something instead of just talking.

**Common mistakes**

~~If you will finish early, give me a call~~. If you finish early, give me a call.

~~Unless we don’t pay the bill, the phone will be cut off~~. Unless we pay the bill, the phone will be cut off.

~~I wish we would buy a bigger house~~. I wish we could buy a bigger house.

~~We’d better to cut down on our expenses~~. We’d better cut down on our expenses.

~~You’d not better talk to him about it.~~ You’d better not talk to him about it.

~~We would better leave now~~. We had better leave now.

~~I’d rather Greg goes to medical school~~. I’d rather Greg went to medical school.

~~It’s high time you redecorate your flat~~. It’s high time you redecorated your flat.