|  |
| --- |
| The Subjunctive: Overview |
|  |  |
| **FORM:** | The **present subjunctive** is formed from the bare infinitive of a verb. This means there is no “to” in front of the verb.*to be (infinitive)* -------- *be (present subjunctive)**to help (infinitive) ----------- help (present subjunctive)*The **past subjunctive** is formed from the simple past. *stood (simple past) -------------- stood (past subjunctive)**ran (simple past) ------------- ran (past subjunctive)*The verb “to be” is an exception to the rule for the **past subjunctive**. **I/he/she/it** can use either **was** or **were**. When the speaker wants to express doubt or uncertainty, **were** is more common than **was**.  |  |
|  |  |
| **USE:** | * The **present subjunctive** is used in some exclamations to express a wish or hope.

 *God* ***help*** *us! Long* ***live*** *the king!*  * The **present** **subjunctive** can be used with certain verbs, nouns and adjectives followed by **that** (see Exercises 39 and 40).

 *They ordered that we* ***evacuate*** *the ship.** The **past** **subjunctive** can be used after **as if** and **as though** to show doubt, unreality or improbability in the present.

 *The politician spoke* ***as if*** *he* ***had won*** *the election!* (He didn’t win the election.) *They act* ***as though*** *they* ***were*** *married.* (They are not married.) |

|  |
| --- |
| *Fill in either the PRESENT or PAST SUBJUNCTIVE of the verbs given in brackets.* |

1. Heaven \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (help) us finish this report in time!
2. The bully acts as though he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) the smartest person in the class.
3. The team coach praised us as if we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (come) first in the tournament.
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (give) us the strength to continue up this mountain!
5. Your boyfriend behaves as if he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (own) this house!
6. The secretary orders the staff around as though she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) in charge.