

Chapter 9

Amber held her breath as she stood on the table behind the screen. The chatter of the ladies died down and the clip-clip-clip of the headteacher's high heels could be heard crossing the floor to the front of the hall. Miss Vile stopped in front of the screen. She stood in silence. A deathly hush descended on the room.

"I can still smell those disgusting children!" she said at last. "Eradicate the smell or I shall choke." One of the ladies leapt up and began to use an aerosol spray. The aerosol spray smelt of cabbage and smelly cheese (it made Amber feel quite sick), but it seemed to satisfy Miss Vile. "Enough! That will do!" she ordered and the lady obediently went back to her seat. "I have called this emergency meeting because of the insubordinate behaviour that we all witnessed in this morning's assembly." Miss Vile gave her audience a good hard stare. "Who was responsible for this unforgivable act of treason?"

"Not me! We don't know," the ladies replied, shaking their heads.

"No! Of course not! You are all innocent! I expect it was one of the children," she said sarcastically. Her sarcasm was lost on the ladies.

"Yes! Yes!" they agreed. "It was one of the children."

"Idiots!" she shouted. "Of course it wasn't one of them. They are nothing more than ignorant little brats!" In spite of her predicament, Amber had to smile at Miss Vile's mistaken belief. "I advise the person responsible that she ensure nothing like that ever happens again. I suggest that the culprit desist from playing any more practical jokes. I urge you all to remember we have a mission to accomplish!" Amber checked her mobile to make sure it was working – it was vital she recorded this incriminating evidence.

"I insist that everyone obey my instructions to the very last detail. Is that understood?"

"Yes, Miss Vile. Of course, Miss Vile," they all chanted in unison.



"Make a detailed note of everything I tell you. Very soon we will be able to put Plan R into operation." Amber felt the table wobble beneath her, but she quickly shifted her foot and managed to regain her balance. "For our plan to work it is first necessary that the cook be removed from her position." This was just what Amber needed as proof! "She is taking far too long to leave. I propose we hasten her departure. Miss Dawn, you will be responsible for eliminating her. It is vital that each child take a dose of Potion X in their school lunch. With Potion X in their bellies it will make our job so much easier: like taking lambs to the slaughter!" She laughed a wicked laugh.

This last remark made Amber stir uneasily, the table wobbled again, and this time she did feel herself falling!



I can use the subjunctive form.

Certain verbs and expressions require the subjunctive form. This is basically the same as the infinitive form. **To eat, to drink, to read, to write** are all infinitives.

They never end in **s, es, ed** or **ing** like other verbs.

An infinitive will almost always start with **to**. Subjunctives are like infinitives without **to**.

They are used after certain verbs or expressions, often with the word **that** following them.

Miss Vile advised the witch that she listen to her carefully.

The third person (**she**) would normally require that the verb **listen** end in **s**. However, advised is one of those words that is followed by the subjunctive form, so there is no **s** on the end of **listen**.

Tick which sentence uses the subjunctive form correctly.

- 1 Miss Vile advised the witch that she listens carefully.
 Miss Vile advised the witch that she listen carefully.
- 2 She suggested that the witch desist from her practical jokes.
 She suggested that the witch desists from her practical jokes.
- 3 She requested that somebody go for an aerosol to get rid of the smell.
 She requested that somebody goes for an aerosol to get rid of the smell.
- 4 She demanded that everyone make a note of what she was saying.
 She demanded that everyone makes a note of what she was saying.
- 5 She insisted that Mrs Rump never returns to the kitchen.
 She insisted that Mrs Rump never return to the kitchen.
- 6 She proposed that Miss Dawn removes the cook.
 She proposed that Miss Dawn remove the cook.
- 7 It was necessary that Miss Vile put Plan R into operation.
 It was necessary that Miss Vile puts Plan R into operation.
- 8 It was vital that each child takes a dose of Potion X.
 It was vital that each child take a dose of Potion X.



Extension Find all the examples of the subjunctive form in the passage.



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The third person (**she**) would normally require that the verb **listen** end in **s**. However, **advised** is one of those words that is followed by the subjunctive form, so there is no **s** on the end of **listen**.

Choose the subjunctive form of the verb in the brackets to complete the sentences.

- 1 Miss Vile advised the witch that she carefully. (*listen / listens*)
- 2 She suggested that the witch from her practical jokes. (*desists / desist*)
- 3 She requested that somebody for an aerosol to get rid of the smell. (*goes / go*)
- 4 She demanded that everyone a note of what she was saying. (*make / makes*)
- 5 She insisted that Mrs Rump never to the kitchen. (*returns / return*)
- 6 She proposed that Miss Dawn the cook. (*removes / remove*)
- 7 It was necessary that Miss Vile Plan R into operation. (*put / puts*)
- 8 It was vital that each child a dose of Potion X. (*takes / take*)

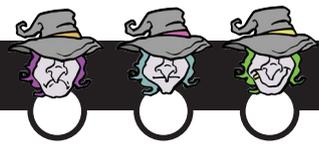


Complete these sentences that Miss Vile told the staff about her plans.

- 9 I command that
- 10 It is essential that

Extension Find all the examples of the subjunctive form in the passage.





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They are used after certain verbs or expressions, often with the word **that** following them.

Miss Vile advised the witch that she listen to her carefully.

The third person (**she**) would normally require that the verb **listen** end in **s**. However, advised is one of those words that is followed by the subjunctive form, so there is no **s** on the end of **listen**.



Complete the sentences using the subjunctive form of the verb in the brackets.

- 1 Miss Vile advised the witch that she (to listen)
- 2 She suggested that the witch (to desist)
- 3 She requested that somebody (to go)
- 4 She demanded that everyone (to make)
- 5 She insisted that Mrs Rump never (to return)
- 6 She proposed that Miss Dawn (to remove)
- 7 It was necessary that Miss Vile (to put)
- 8 It was vital that each child (to take)

Complete these sentences that Miss Vile told her staff about her plans.

- 9 I command that
- 10 It is essential that
- 11 I recommend that

Extension Find all the examples of the subjunctive form in the passage.

