

I had, of course, answered to Duncan Spooner during registration and although Malcolm had said nothing at the time, it was clearly bothering him.

“What you want to call yourself Duncan for?” he asked me again. “Why can’t you use yer own name? Who are you anyway?”

“It’s complicated,” is all I could manage to reply. I thought that if I were to repeat the story of my abusive uncle in front of Kenneth it might anger him further, and I couldn’t run the risk of both boys interrogating me. Luckily, Kenneth came to my aid.

“He’s a secret agent,” he blurted out.

“A what?” Malcolm sounded incredulous. (I was grateful to Kenneth for stepping in to protect me, but a secret agent! It didn’t sound convincing! I would have been better off sticking to the original story.)

“He’s on a mission, so he has to stay incognito,” Kenneth replied.

“In cog what?” Malcolm sounded baffled.

“He’s not allowed to divulge his true identity.” Kenneth lowered his voice. “We believe there are German spies working in the area. Mr Crookshaw is our chief suspect.”

Kenneth, who was now warming to his theme, was elaborating further and I felt I had to interrupt him before he made it too far-fetched. “I think it best he know as little about it as possible for his own protection,” I said with what I hoped were sinister undertones. However, Malcolm was intrigued with the idea of Mr Crookshaw being a German spy and wanted to know why we suspected him.

“Stands to reason,” replied Kenneth. “There can be no better disguise than posing as a teacher. Who would mistrust a primary school teacher?”

“But what good’s a spy stuck out here in Wilmslow?” Malcolm asked.

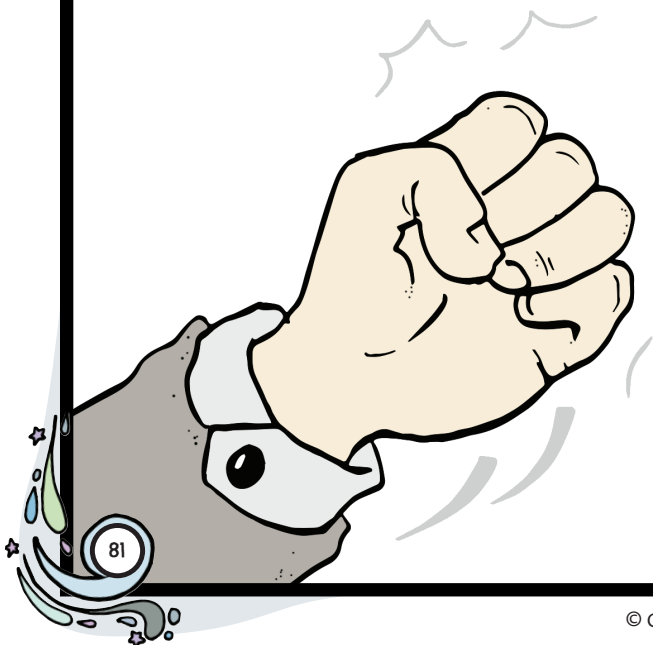
I thought Kenneth might falter at this point, but he confidently replied, “This school is conveniently based between RAF Wilmslow and RAF Handforth. It seems to me a very good spot to conduct any espionage activities.” I was in awe at Kenneth’s knowledge and his ability to improvise, but I seriously doubted that Malcolm would fall for it. I was wrong. He went for it completely. I think kids in those days were more gullible than they are today.

“I knew it!” Malcolm shouted triumphantly.

“He were talking foreign from the start. I wish I were told about this earlier. If he were German that would explain why he’s being so mean to me.” We hadn’t realised that one of the village boys had wandered over and had overheard our conversation.

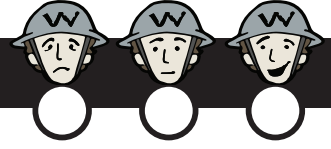
“I advise he tell no more lies about my teacher,” he said in a haughty manner.

“And I advise he keep out of our business,” said the hot-headed Malcolm as he landed him a punch. The next thing I knew we were in the middle of a scrap with a gang of village boys, and Mr Crookshaw was dragging us apart.





I can use the subjunctive form.



The **subjunctive** is a verb form that is used to express things that could or should happen in the future. It is used to express wishes, hopes, commands and suggestions.

The subjunctive isn't used in English very often. In most cases you wouldn't realise you were using it, for it is only different in the third person singular and when using the verb **to be**.

For the subjunctive we remove the final **s** at the end of the verb.

"I advise that he desist from brawling," said Mr Crookshaw. (instead of **he desists**)

In the subjunctive we use the forms **I were** and **they be**.

"I wish I were back at my old school," said Malcolm. (instead of **I was**)

He asked that they be returned to Manchester immediately. (instead of **they are returned**).

Mr Crookshaw took Drew, Kenneth and Malcolm into his office. Malcolm was dragged in kicking and screaming.

Cross out the verb which isn't written in the subjunctive form.

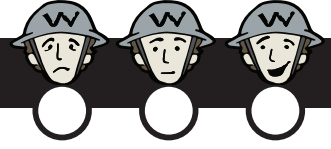
- 1 Mr Crookshaw requested that they all **be/are** quiet and listen to what he had to say.
- 2 He advised Malcolm that he **calms/calm** down immediately.
- 3 "I propose that this boy **receive/receives** six of the best if he doesn't stop now!"
- 4 Malcolm said that he wished Mr Crookshaw **were/be** arrested for cruelty to evacuees.
- 5 Mr Crookshaw then asked that Drew **explains/explain** how the fight started.
- 6 "Our school rules require that all children **are/be** truthful," said Mr Crookshaw.
- 7 Then Malcolm insisted that Mr Crookshaw **was/be** taken prisoner as a German spy.
- 8 He demanded that Mr Crookshaw **speak/speaks** in German to prove he was right.
- 9 "If I **were/was** a German spy, what am I doing teaching in Handforth?" Mr Crookshaw asked.
- 10 "And If I **was/were** a German agent that's exactly what I would say," said Malcolm.
- 11 "Deus, dona mihi firmitatem! I wish I **were/was** anywhere else but here!" Mr Crookshaw sighed.
- 12 "Foreign talk! Come on you two. If I **was/were** a secret agent I'd arrest him," said Malcolm.
- 13 "And If I **were/was** you, I'd be very careful what I said," said Mr Crookshaw.
- 14 He suggested that they **be/are** sensible and tell him where the nonsense about spies had come from.



Extension Underline the examples of the subjunctive form in the passage.



I can use the subjunctive form.



The **subjunctive** is a verb form that is used to express things that could or should happen in the future. It is used to express wishes, hopes, commands and suggestions.

The subjunctive isn't used in English very often. In most cases you wouldn't realise you were using it, for it is only different in the third person singular and when using the verb **to be**.

For the subjunctive we remove the final **s** at the end of the verb.

"I advise that he desist from brawling," said Mr Crookshaw. (instead of **he desists**)

In the subjunctive we use the forms **I were** and **they be**.

"I wish I were back at my old school," said Malcolm. (instead of I was)

He asked that they be returned to Manchester immediately. (instead of they are returned).

Mr Crookshaw took Drew, Kenneth and Malcolm into his office. Malcolm was dragged in kicking and screaming.

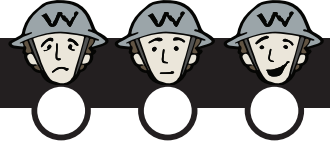
Correct the verb in bold by writing it in the subjunctive form.

- 1 Mr Crookshaw requested that they all **are** quiet and listen to what he had to say.
- 2 He advised Malcolm that he **calms** down immediately.
- 3 "I propose that this boy **receives** six of the best if he doesn't stop now!"
- 4 Malcolm said that he wished Mr Crookshaw **was** arrested for cruelty to evacuees.
- 5 Mr Crookshaw then asked that Drew **explains** how the fight started.
- 6 "Our school rules require that all children **are** truthful," said Mr Crookshaw.
- 7 Then Malcolm insisted that Mr Crookshaw **was** taken prisoner as a German spy.
- 8 He demanded that Mr Crookshaw **speaks** in German to prove he was right.
- 9 "If I **was** a German spy, what am I doing teaching in Handforth?" Mr Crookshaw asked.
- 10 "And If I **was** a German agent that's exactly what I would say," said Malcolm.
- 11 "Deus, dona mihi firmitatem! I wish I **was** anywhere else but here!" Mr Crookshaw sighed.
- 12 "Foreign talk! Come on you two. If I **was** a secret agent I'd arrest him," said Malcolm.
- 13 "And If I **was** you, I'd be very careful what I said," said Mr Crookshaw.
- 14 He suggested that they **are** sensible and tell him where the nonsense about spies had come from.



Extension Underline the examples of the subjunctive form in the passage.

I can use the subjunctive form.



The **subjunctive** is a verb form that is used to express things that could or should happen in the future. It is used to express wishes, hopes, commands and suggestions.

The subjunctive isn't used in English very often. In most cases you wouldn't realise you were using it, for it is only different in the third person singular and when using the verb **to be**.

For the subjunctive we remove the final **s** at the end of the verb.

"I advise that he desist from brawling," said Mr Crookshaw. (instead of **he desists**)

In the subjunctive we use the forms **I were** and **they be**.

"I wish I were back at my old school," said Malcolm. (instead of I was)

He asked that they be returned to Manchester immediately. (instead of they are returned).

Mr Crookshaw took Drew, Kenneth and Malcolm into his office. Malcolm was dragged in kicking and screaming.

Correct the verb by writing it in the subjunctive form.

- 1 Mr Crookshaw requested that they all are quiet and listen to what he had to say.
- 2 He advised Malcolm that he calms down immediately.
- 3 "I propose that this boy receives six of the best if he doesn't stop now!"
- 4 Malcolm said that he wished Mr Crookshaw was arrested for cruelty to evacuees.
- 5 Mr Crookshaw then asked that Drew explains how the fight started.
- 6 "Our school rules require that all children are truthful," said Mr Crookshaw.
- 7 Then Malcolm insisted that Mr Crookshaw was taken prisoner as a German spy.
- 8 He demanded that Mr Crookshaw speaks in German to prove he was right.
- 9 "If I was a German spy, what am I doing teaching in Handforth?" Mr Crookshaw asked.
- 10 "And If I was a German agent that's exactly what I would say," said Malcolm.
- 11 "Deus, dona mihi firmitatem! I wish I was anywhere else but here!" Mr Crookshaw sighed.
- 12 "Foreign talk! Come on you two. If I was a secret agent I'd arrest him," said Malcolm.
- 13 "And If I was you, I'd be very careful what I said," said Mr Crookshaw.
- 14 He suggested that they are sensible and tell him where the nonsense about spies had come from.



Extension Underline the examples of the subjunctive form in the passage.