



Subjunctive mood 虚拟语气

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- Neil:** Hello, welcome to Question and Answer of the week! I'm Neil and with me today is Feifei.
- Feifei:** Hi. You know if you were a gentlemen you would have let me start first – haven't you heard the saying 'ladies first'?
- Neil:** I have Feifei – but I often forget it. But what you said about if I were a gentleman is a good example of subjunctive mood.
- Feifei:** 虚拟的心情? No Neil, I'm not in a mood I'm quite happy, I was just saying ladies...
- Neil:** ...first. Feifei, it's not about being in a mood. The subjunctive mood is something we use in English grammar.
- Feifei:** Really!
- Neil:** I'm going to explain because Chen Chen has written to us and asked "Please can you tell me something about subjunctive mood. I find it is hard for me to get it. Thanks!"
- Feifei:** 谢谢 Chen Chen 的提问。原来他想了解虚拟语气 subjunctive mood 是怎么回事儿? So where shall we begin Neil?
- Neil:** In grammar the subjunctive is used to express intention or proposal about the future.
- Feifei:** It's about what's going to happen then?
- Neil:** Not exactly – it's about suggesting or proposing what we might or could do in the future. There's no guarantee it will happen.
- Feifei:** 我们用虚拟语气来表达一种假设。So how do we use it?
- Neil:** It's about how we use verbs. In English, verbs are used in contexts called moods. There are indicative, imperative and subjunctive moods. This final

mood is the one used to express condition, hypothesis, contingency, or possibility. It is not used to state an actual fact.

Feifei: Anything else?

Neil: Ah yes, we use the simple form of the verb – that's the infinitive of the verb without the 'to' in front. This verb may have a different form to one with the same subject which is not in the subjunctive mood. So instead of saying...

Example:

I was in your position a year ago.

Neil: You say...

Example:

If I were in your position, I would do the same.

Feifei: Interesting. 在刚才听到的例句中，因为是一种假设，所以用了 were 而不是 was.

Neil: Yes, it's perhaps not how you would expect to speak but it the correct way to express something that is not an actual fact. You are just suggesting something, that's why you might begin by saying *if*. Another example is instead of saying...

Example:

He is going to play in the football team.

Neil: The subjunctive mood would go like this...

Example:

I suggest he be allowed to play in the football team.

Feifei: 如果要把一个肯定的句子转换成假设句，那么我们可以把单词 is 改成 be.

Neil: Let's hear some examples of using it in the present tense:

Examples:

"I suggest John study if he's to pass his exams."

"We cannot miss the train, it is essential we be there."

"Jane recommends that you join the tennis club."

Feifei: 在刚才听到的几个含有虚拟语气的例句中，动词 study, be 和 join 都以动词原型的形式出现。

Neil: It is and we don't use it very much in contemporary English. But when it's being used it often involves one of the following verbs:
ask, command, demand, insist, order, recommend, suggest and wish.

Feifei: 在英语里使用表示要求，命令或建议的虚拟语气时，常出现的动词有 ask, command, demand, insist, order, recommend, suggest 和 wish. 比如:

Examples:

With his skills, I suggest he cook all the food.

We insist he play in the team for the big match.

Could I ask he sit with me on the train?

Neil: Notice the simple singular use of the verb – cook, play, sit. And here’s an example of a negative subjunctive sentence...

Example:

They advised that he not return to work until fully fit.

Neil: So note we don’t say ‘do not return to work’ just ‘not return to work.’

Feifei: Hmm, it’s a little complicated. Is there anything else we should know?

Neil: Yes – but it’s worth checking out bbclearningEnglish.com for more explanation. Just remember if you want to suggest doubt or say something that’s not a fact, this is the ‘mood’ you can use.

Feifei: So, is you taking me out for dinner a fact or not?

Neil: Well, if we were to go for dinner, you’d have to pay!

Feifei: Hmm, now I’m in a mood – and not a subjunctive one! 希望 chenchen 对虚拟语气有了一定的了解，如果你有语法难题，请发邮件给我们，我们的邮箱是 questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk

Neil: We look forward to receiving your questions. Now Feifei, how can I help you snap you out of this mood?

Feifei: If I were you Neil, I wouldn’t bother!

Neil: Bye.