



## Teaching Tricky Grammar: Subjunctive Form

### Takeaways from the video:

- A detailed explanation of the subjunctive form of verbs to improve teachers' understanding
- Teaching and learning examples that can be easily replicated for use with pupils
- Exemplification of how the subjunctive form is applied in authentic texts

### Press Pause Questions:

#### Slide 4

Which of the following words are forms of the verb 'to be'?

*am, are, be, being, been, is, was, were*

#### Slide 6

Which of the following sentences use the subjunctive?

*I were going to town.*

*I could travel to the moon if I were an astronaut.*

*If I were a grown-up, I'd go to the cinema every day.*

*James and I were riding our bikes.*

*Sam were doing his homework.*

In the sentences that don't use the subjunctive, can you explain how the verb 'to be' is being

used, e.g. incorrectly, to indicate plural possession.

#### Slide 16

Rewrite these sentences using the subjunctive form

*It is important that children are at school for 9.00.*

*We advise that your child brings sunscreen on the trip to the beach.*

*We ask that each child has a notebook and pencil.*

### Putting it into Practice

Check that your class recognise the different forms of the verb 'to be' by writing verbs including is, are, were, was, being, been, be on flashcards. Then use the cards to play 'thumbs up, thumbs down', with children putting their thumbs up when you show a form of the verb 'to be'.

Share poems and songs from popular culture that use the subjunctive form. Encourage children to text mark copies of these songs and poems to show where the subjunctive form is used. For example.

*The worship song, If I were a butterfly*

*If I were a rich man, from Fiddler on the Roof*

*If I were a boy, by Beyoncé*



*If I were a King, by A A Milne*

Provide the class with a selection of verbs. Can they write each verb in the infinitive? Increase or decrease the challenge of the activity by including or removing words with tricky forms e.g. drank (to drink), thought (to think).

### **Review Question**

Ask pupils to imagine they were the headteacher for the day. What would they do and what types of commands and important messages would they convey? E.g. If I were headteacher for the day, I would ask that pupils wear joggers and trainers. I would also ask that...