Español 3: Subjunctive vs Indicative in Noun Clauses

Meet Señor Indicativo.

He’s sure about the world around him and he lives his life with a sense of certainty, observation, truth, and control. He’s positive about what he knows, what he doesn’t know, and about the reality of all things. He lives in the present, he can tell you about the past, and he is realistic about the future.

He doesn’t give advice or recommendations. He’s only worried about doing or not doing; believing, thinking. He’s a doer. He’s not emotionally reactive, and he doesn’t guess about things. He takes the world as it is.

Now, meet Señor Subjuntivo.

He’s really into thinking about possibilities and hypothetical situations. He lives with a certain uncertainty about the present, is speculative about the past, and don’t even get him started on the future! He’s all about guessing and let’s his imagination run wild. He dwells in uncertainty and speculation. He’s emotionally reactive and is liable to go down “the rabbit hole” of doubt, disbelief, and denial.

He really cares how others live their lives because it might affect him. He tries to influence those around him with advise, suggestions, and recommendations. He wants to change the world and the people in it. He has a big heart for hoping, dreaming, and loving.

These personifications correspond to the verbos de VEED (Señor Subjuntivo) and the verbos de certeza (Señor Indicativo) on your blue list.

Let’s review: What 3 things do we absolutely need to use the subjunctive? (Use the sentence to map them out.)

1.

2. Yo recomiendo que tú estudies a menudo.

3.

Here’s the thing:

Sentences that don’t use the subjunctive might look the exact same with 1 small distinction: NO VERBO DE VEED.

Ejemplo:

Es obvio que estudias a menudo. vs. Es posible que estudies

Do you see….

* 2 clauses separated by “que”?
* 2 different subjects…?

Me too. Here’s the burning question: **What type of verb do you see in the main clause** (La cláusula mayor)

(Write it here!)

Qué fácil ¿verdad? Now the use of the subjunctive is only a question of what type of verb is in the main clause: VEED or Certeza.