

# Lesson 55:

## Subjunctive

### Subjunctive

Subjunctives are a polite form of the verb used in giving suggestions, giving directions and directives, and asking for things.

- A). Subjunctive
- B). Uses of the Subjunctive
- C). Words that trigger the Subjunctive
- D). Negating the Subjunctive
- E). Negation Uses

### A). Subjunctive

In Kiswahili, changing the final **-A** into **-E** in a verb will form the subjunctive.

Mifano:

**1. Afadhali ulale sasa.**

[It is better if you sleep now.]

**2. Ni vizuri/muhimu mtoto apige mswaki.**

[It is good/important that the child brushes his/her teeth.]

### Zingatia [Note]

Verb stems ending in vowels other than **-A** (e.g. *-fikiri* [think]) do not change when forming subjunctive.

Verb	Subjunctive	Meaning
fikiri	nifikiri	[I should think]
safiri	nisafiri	[I should travel]
fuzu	mfuzu	[you (pl.) should graduate]
shukuru	tushukuru	[we should be grateful/thankful]

## B). Uses of the Subjunctive

### 1. Making suggestions

- Astarehe. [He/She should relax/be comfortable.]
- Usamehe. [You should forgive.]

### 2. As the second part of two commands (to the same person)

- Fungua kitabu usome. [Open the book and read it.]
- Chukua kalamu na uandike barua. [Take a pen and write a letter.]

### 3. Giving indirect commands (for 'you' to do to another)

- Mfundishe Kiswahili. [Teach her/him Kiswahili.]
- Mwamkie mtoto. [Greet the child.]

### 4. Giving direct commands (for someone to do to another)

- Tuwafundishe Kimaasai. [Let's teach them the Maasai language.]
- Uwashukuru wazee. [You should thank the elders.]
- Wakisome kitabu. [They should read the book.]

## C). Words that trigger the Subjunctive

There are a number of words that require a subjunctive form to follow them: words which indicate **obligation** or **compulsion**.

- |                  |                        |   |
|------------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>1. lazima</b> | [must]                 | <b>Lazima</b> uandike barua.<br>[You must write a letter.]  |
| <b>2. ili</b>    | [so that]              | Soma <b>ili</b> uelewe.<br>[Read so that you may understand.]   |
| <b>3. sharti</b> | [compels,<br>behooves] | Ukitaka cha mvunguni <b>sharti</b> uiname.<br>[If you want to reach for something under the<br>bed, you should/it compels you to stoop for it.] |
| <b>4. bidi</b>   | [requires,<br>compels] | Itakub <b>idi</b> ujifunze Kiswahili.<br>[It compels you to study Kiswahili.]   |

## D). Negation of the Subjunctive

To negate the subjunctive verb in Kiswahili, **-SI-** is inserted.

Mifano:

1. Nionje	[I should taste]
Ni- <b>si</b> -onj-e	[I should not taste]
2. Wacheze.	[They should play.]
Was <b>iche</b> ze.	[They should not play.]
3. Tule.	[We should eat.]
Tu <b>sile</b> .	[We should not eat.]
4. Achukue	[He/She should take]
As <b>ichukue</b>	[He/She should not take]
5. Mzungumze.	[You (pl.) should speak.]
Ms <b>izungumze</b> .	[You (pl.) should not speak.]
6. Tufundishe.	[We should teach.]
Tu <b>sifundishe</b> .	[We should not teach.]

## E). Negation Uses

### 1. As the second part of two commands for the person spoken to

- a). Usipike chakula ule.  
[You should not cook the food and eat.]
- b). Msichukue karatasi mtunge mashairi.  
[You (pl.) should not take the papers and compose poems.]

### 2. Indirect commands (telling someone not to do something)

- a). Tusiwafundishe Kimaasai.  
[We should not teach them the Maasai language.]
- b). Usiwashukuru wazee.  
[You should not thank the elders.]
- c). Wasikisome kitabu.  
[They should not read the book.]