Imperfect subjunctive

¡El tiempo verbal más borracho de todos!

The Subjunctive in brief

W ishes
E motions
I mpersonal expressions
R ecommendations
D oubt/Denial
O jalá

To use the subjunctive you need WEIRDO verbs to introduce it...

WEIRDO verbs are always followed by QUE...

Wishes: quiero/deseo/necesito/ espero que...
Emotions: me alegro que... Me da pena que...
Impersonal/ **I**mprobable: Es+adjective+que
Recommendations: influencing others...
Doubt: dudo/ no creo/no me parece cierto que
Ojalá: after this Spanish word (means 'I wish')

When do you use the imperfect subjunctive?

The imperfect subjunctive (*el pretérito imperfecto de subjuntivo*) follows all the same rules as the present subjunctive for when to use it. The only difference is timing.

Only specific combinations of tenses are permitted in the subjunctive. The most common combinations in every day speech are present indicative followed by present subjunctive; and the past tenses, except for the perfect tense, are almost always followed by an imperfect or pluperfect subjunctive. The following chart illustrates the most expected combinations:

Indicative tense of main verb	Subjunctive tenses permissible in dependent clause
• Present • Future • Imperatives • **Perfect** • Future perfect	present subjunctive **or** perfect subjunctive
• Imperfect • Preterite • **Conditional** • Pluperfect • Perfect conditional	Imperfect subjunctive **or** pluperfect subjunctive

How do you form the imperfect subjunctive?

El pretérito imperfecto es el tiempo verbal más borracho de todos. Explica por qué.

Instead of using the infinitive for the stem, the imperfect subjunctive uses the 3rd person plural of the preterite (without the -ron). If you use this trick you will be able to conjugate all the irregulars!

So, CANTAR in the preterite is CANTARON.
Remove the **-ron** (like the pirate!)
Then add the correct endings

CANT**AR**	BEB**ER** +	VIV**IR**
canta**ra** / canta**se**	bebie**ra** / bebie**se**	vivie**ra** / vivie**se**
canta**ras** / canta**ses**	bebie**ras** / bebie**ses**	vivie**ras** / vivie**ses**
canta**ra** / canta**se**	bebie**ra** / bebie**se**	vivie**ra** / vivie**se**
cant**áramos** / cant**ásemos**	bebi**éramos** / bebi**ésemos**	vivi**éramos** / vivi**ésemos**
canta**rais** / canta**seis**	bebie**rais** / bebie**seis**	vivie**rais** / vivie**seis**
canta**ran** / canta**sen**	bebie**ran** / bebie**sen**	vivie**ran** / vivie**sen**

Three specific uses for the imperfect subjunctive

1. Conditional sentences beginning with "if"

The imperfect subjunctive also has one use which is specific to itself, i.e. it is not the case for the present subjunctive. This is in unfulfilled or remote conditions;

e.g. If he were to come to the party I would stay.
Si viniera a la fiesta, me quedaría.

If I had more money I would buy a house.
Si tuviera más dinero, compraría una casa.

Exercise - Translate the following sentences into Spanish:

1. If **I were** president I would improve the economy of this country.

2. If **it were to rain**, I would not be able to go to the match.

3. If **it were** true, I would go to the police.

4. If **I were** you, I would go to the police station.

5. If I **had studied** more, I would have a better job now.

2. COMO SI…… (as if………)

'Como si' is <u>always</u> followed by the imperfect subjunctive

e.g. Marta speaks Dutch as if she were a native
Marta habla holandés como si fuera nativa

For her family, it is as if it had happened yesterday.
Para su familia es como si hubiera ocurrido ayer.

1. Pedro behaves **as if** he were a teenager.

2. She was working **as if** her life depended on it.

3. Julio and Rosa dress **as if** it were not cold.

4. They treated us **as if** we were criminals.

5. He talks **as if** he lived in a palace.

3. ¡OJALÁ ….!

Ojalá is with the subjunctive to express the idea of I hope….. / If only….. / I wish…..
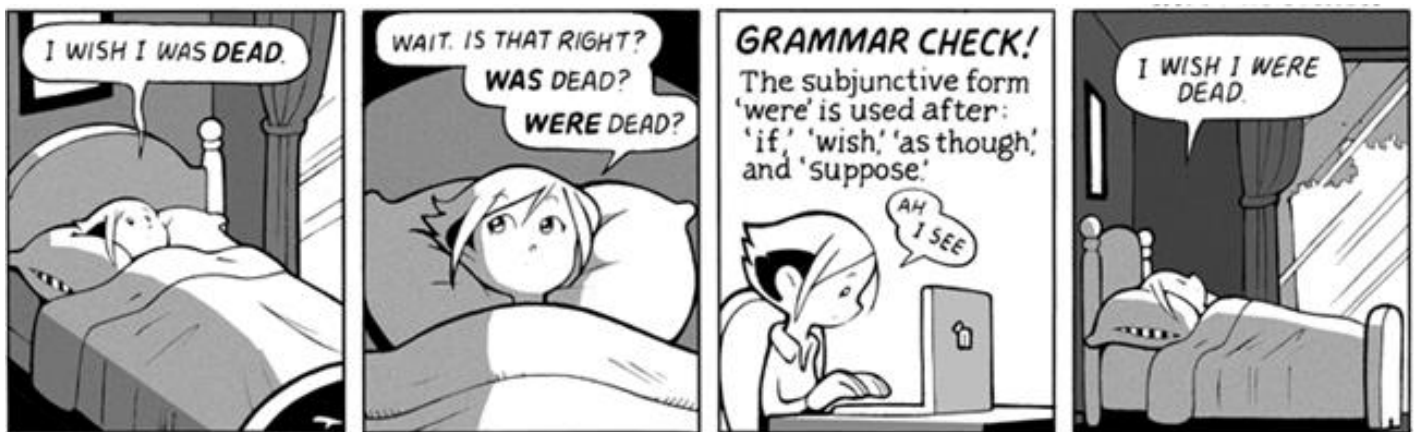
Ojalá + <u>present</u> subjunctive   =   I hope …

Ojalá + <u>imperfect</u> subjunctive   =   If only … / I wish …

e.g.   ¡Ojalá fuese yo tan rico como él! – If only I were as rich as him!

1. **I wish that** I could stop worrying! *[dejar + infinitive = to stop doing something]*

2. **I wish that** Sara studied more!

Novelas gráficas / Tiras de prensa

Read through the following extracts from graphic novel and comic strips.

1. Identify and highlight the example of the imperfect subjunctive in each one.
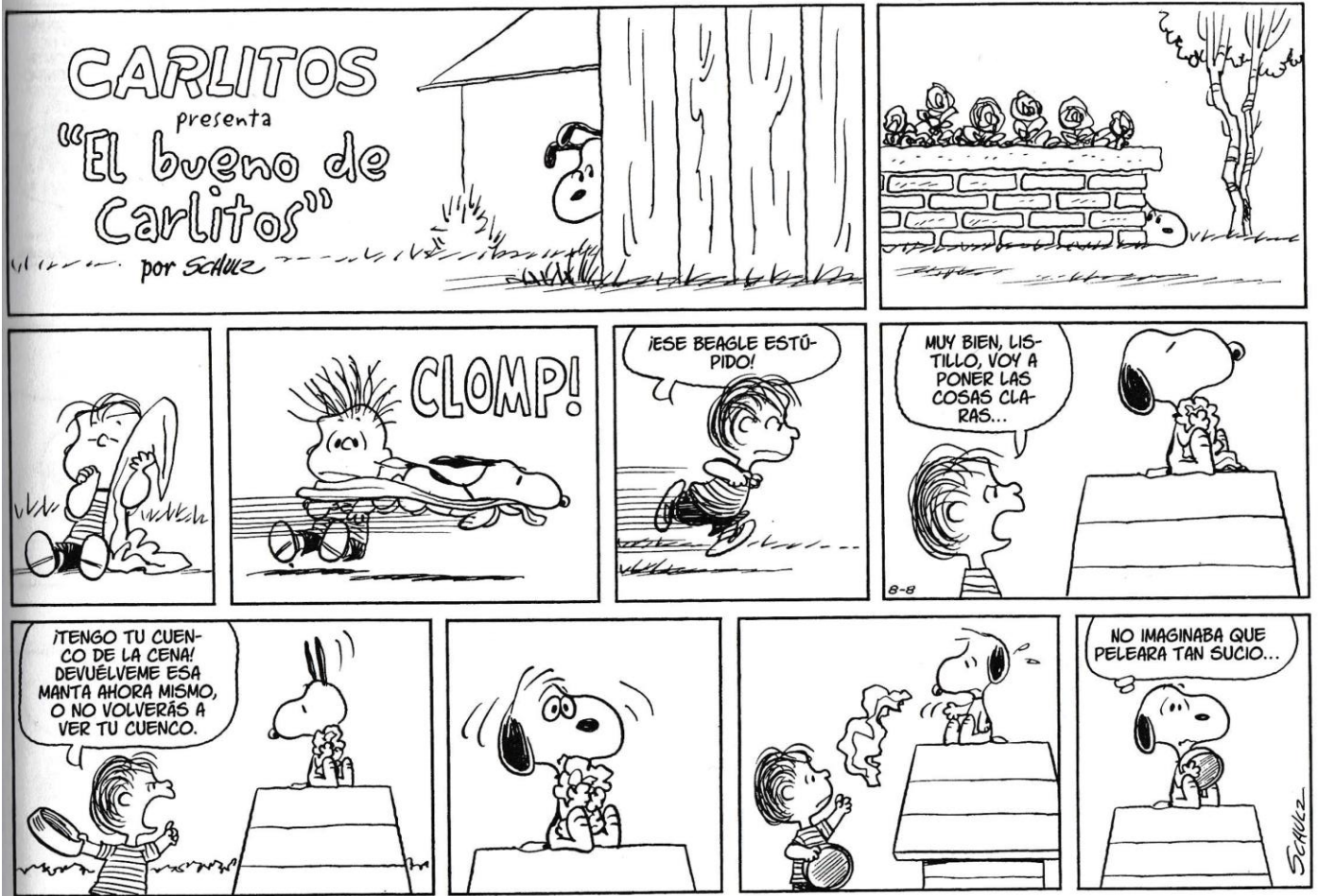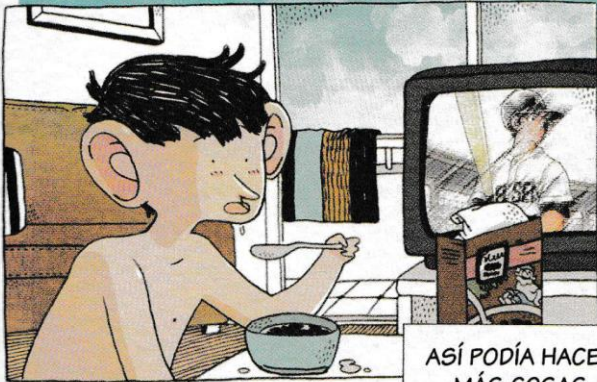2. Explain why the imperfect subjunctive is being used in each case

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.
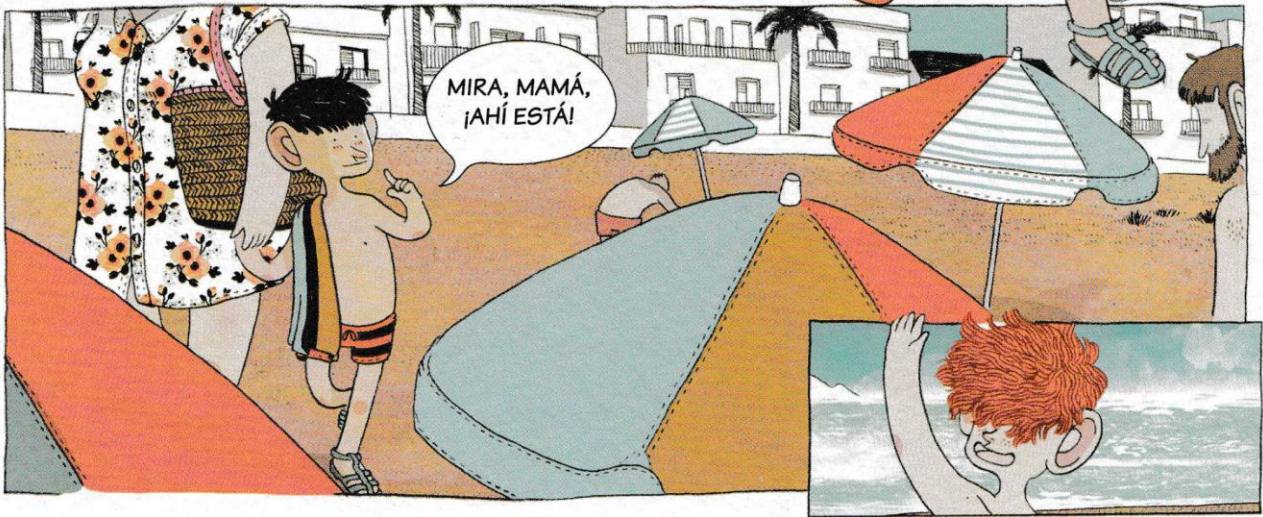
Practice

Conjugue correctamente cada uno de los verbos en las siguientes oraciones usando el condicional o el imperfecto del subjuntivo.

1. Si Hugo _____ (venir), Arantxa _____ (ponerse) muy contenta.

2. Roberto quería que nosotros _____ (ir) a su fiesta el sábado pasado.

3. Si tú _____ (comprar) un portátil, yo lo _____ (tomar) prestado a menudo.

4. Ese ingeniero trabaja como si _____ (ser) una máquina.

5. Si vosotros _____ (saber) la respuesta, estoy seguro de que nos la _____ (decir).

6. Ella se alegró de que tú _____ (encontrar) un trabajo.

7. Fue una lástima que vosotros no _____ (poder) venir a la clase el viernes pasado.

8. Cuando estudiaba en Perú nunca conocí a nadie que no _____ (hablar) quechua.

9. Mi profesor me dijo que si yo _____ (estudiar) más, _____ (obtener) mejores notas.

10. Necesitaban una bailarina que _____ (saber) bailar salsa y tango.

Translate into Spanish

In the hairdresser's

Lucía had long, brown, straight hair. She went to the hair salon and told her hairdresser to cut her hair. Hugo, the hairdresser, suggested that she change the colour of her hair. He said, "If I were you, I would change the colour of my hair". Lucía had always wanted her hair to be different. Immediately she decided she wanted to be a blonde. Hugo looked for a colour that Lucía liked. Three hours later after he changed the colour of her hair, Hugo started using his scissors. When Hugo finished, Lucía looked at herself in the mirror and said to herself, "I wish I had done this years ago!". It was as if she were a different person.

Vocabulario
the mirror = el espejo
scissors   = las tijeras

_____

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