

### English Corner 13: moods of verbs

The moods of a verb add to the context of the words chosen and the commonly encountered are the **Imperative** (as expected from its *imperial* origin, a mood encountered in commands and orders), the **Indicative** (the most commonly used mood, naturally *indicating* factual statements encountered in statements and questions), the **Conditional** (as anticipated, setting forth *conditions*) and the **Subjunctive** (changing form in answering the *conditions*). The **Conditional** and **subjunctive** moods are used together in different clauses of **Conditional statements** that present **Conditions, Ideas** and **Suppositions**, whereas the **Indicative** and **Conditional** are used together in **Conditions, Demands** and **Requests**.

#### Imperative mood

Verbs in this mood are not declined by person or number, but are aimed at an unstated but assumed **second person** (reading the message); and can be considered with an imaginary and elided **[you]** before the statement.

- It is usually come across as written by others in **commands** [**Keep** the culture room sterile. **Smoke** only in the ventilated area] and **advice** [**Do not go** into the culture room when the UV light is on. **Do not eat** or **drink** in the laboratory].
- It is used for setting down **instructions** [**Attach** the syringe to the cannula, **insert** the bevelled end into the severed vas deferens and **tie** it in place] and **methods** [**Weigh** out 2 g NaCl, **dissolve** it in 50 ml water, **mix** well and **measure** the pH].

#### Indicative mood

Most simple sentences contain verbs in the indicative mood. All the verbs in the **Unconditional** sentences here are in the **indicative** mood.

- [As scrotal temperature **is** 34°C the effects of temperature on sperm function **were** examined in this report. A medium containing 15 mM inositol **was prepared** in BWW and the sperm suspension **was incubated** for 10 min at temperatures ranging from 30 to 37 °C. High incubation temperature **reduced** the motility of spermatozoa. Fig 1 **shows** that above 35°C there **was** a sharp decline in forward progression. The effect of temperature regulation on volume regulation by spermatozoa **will be examined**. This work **has shown** that sperm motility **is affected** by temperature. This word **was funded** by Contraceptives Anonymous].

The **Indicative mood** is used by verbs in both the [**Main**, consequence, results] **clause** and the (**Subordinate**, conditional) **clause** and in **Conditional sentences** that are **Factual** (likely to be true)

- In statements **shown to be true**  
 (We **have demonstrated** that)[the enzyme **acts** as a true ROS scavenger].  
 (We **have determined** that)[the changes in movement pattern **are** associated with chemotaxis].  
 (The increase in sperm volume **indicates** that)[potassium-sensitive channels **are** involved in volume regulation].  
 (Recent results **reveal** that)[the protein **mediates** a specific stage of fertilisation].  
 (If she **uses** that culture medium)[the cells **will die**].

- In statements **thought to be true**  
 (It **has been assumed** that)[oxidation of sperm DNA **explains** the genetic abnormalities in the offspring].  
 (It is **believed** that)[hypoxic conditions **induce** upregulation of glycolytic enzymes].  
 (It has been **proposed** that)[this enzyme variant **uses** protamine cysteine residues as substrate].  
 (We **speculate** that)[the enzyme **acts** as a true ROS scavenger].  
 (These results **suggest** that)[ROS production **is** related to capacitation].  
 (The data **support the idea** that)[these different biological roles **reside** in different protein domains].
- In statements that **may be true**  
 (If she **took** that plane)[she **arrived** at 22.00].  
 (If she **takes** that plane)[she **will arrive** in the morning].

### **Conditional and Subjunctive moods together**

The **Subjunctive** is used by verbs in the (**Subordinate**, conditional) **clause**, and the **Conditional** is used by verbs in the [**Main**, consequence, results] **clause** of In **Conditional sentences** that are **Counterfactual** (unlikely to be true)

- In statements that **may be true**  
 (If I **were** honest)[he **would fail** the exam].  
 (If he **were** alive)[he **would be** very old].  
 (If he **should have** done that)[they **would have** helped him].
- in statements that **are not true**  
 (If I **were** Director)[I **could hire** you].  
 (If he **were** to apply)[they **should accept** him].  
 (If it **were** possible)[I **would attend**].
- In statements that **cannot be true**  
 (If Darwin **were** alive)[he **could explain** it in more detail].  
 (If I **were** you)[I **would apply** for the position immediately].

### **Indicative and Subjunctive moods together**

The **Indicative** is used for verbs in the [**Main**, consequence, results] **clause**, and the **Subjunctive** is used by verbs in the (**Subordinate**, conditional) clause, in particular Conditional sentences comprising

- **Conditions**  
 [She **is allowed** in the culture room](on condition that she **wear** a mask).
- **Demands**  
 [He **demanded** that](she **recognise** his rights).
- **Requests**  
 [The librarian **requested** that](he **keep** quiet).