

High-Intermediate 3
Unit 5 Grammar
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The Subjunctive Structure

in That-Clauses Following the Adjectives of Urgency

Adjectives of Urgency => necessary, essential, important, advisable, recommended, desirable, crucial

Point:

If an adjective of urgency is followed by a that-clause, we have to use the simple form of the verb inside the that-clause. This simple form of the verb is the subjunctive structure.

Adjective of Urgency + That-Clause (with the Simple Form of the Verb)

Examples:

It is important that Tom study hard.
It is advisable that Tom not waste his time.
It is necessary that we be on time.
It is crucial that we not be late.
It was essential that they work hard.
It was desirable that they get a raise.

Point:

The subjunctive structure is more common in American English. The British speakers of English usually use "should" + the simple form of the verb instead.

Examples:

It is important that we should succeed in marketing. (British)
It is important that we succeed in marketing. (American)

It is necessary that they shouldn't dissatisfy their customers. (British)
It is necessary that they not dissatisfy their customers. (American)

Point:

The subjunctive structure is used only in that-clauses. We can use adjectives of urgency with infinitives, too.

Adjective of Urgency + for sb + Infinitive (to + Simple Form of the Verb)

Examples:

It is important for us to learn all the grammatical points for the IELTS exam.

It was necessary for them to finance the project as soon as possible.

Point:

We don't use the subjunctive structure with common non-urgency adjectives.

Examples:

It is clear that most of the stocks are undervalued at the moment.

It is obvious that a professional investor usually avoids overvalued stocks.

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