

Chapter 13 More on Verbs: Mood & Voice

Additional paper or project ideas

1. Compare the lyrics of songs that contain the subjunctive. For instance, see Justin Bieber's *If I Was Your Boyfriend* with Beyonce's *If I Were a Boy*.
2. Create a lesson for children to understand the form and context for both the regular and mandative subjunctive.
3. Watch Phuc Tran's Ted Talk Grammar, Identity, and the Dark Side of the Subjunctive (<https://youtu.be/zeSVMG4GkeQ>). From this model, explore a grammar construction that is not in English and from your research, discuss how its absence might affect English second language learners. You may, in this process, do research on the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis or what is called the Theory of Linguistic Relativity—the notion that our language forms constrain our thoughts about the world.
4. For practicing your ability to form passive and to analyze the structure's effectiveness (and lack thereof at time), choose your favorite children's story (e.g., *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Little Red Riding Hood*), a short story, or a chapter from a favorite novel. Convert as many sentences as you can from active voice to passive voice. Then, read the changed prose aloud. Which conversions work effectively, and which do not? Now, what would you advise writers about choosing the passive?
5. Conduct a study on writings such as research articles within a particular field—STEM, teaching, business, law. Analyze the number of sentences that are in active versus passive voice. What is the percentage of each given the total number of sentences (or you could look at clauses)? You could expand this study by comparing two fields or two different types of writings in a given field (e.g., legal writings for the court and legal writings for law journals; medical research versus medical advice columns).