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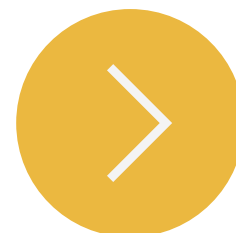
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VERBS L 13 – THE SUBJUNCTIVE 1 (Konjunktiv 1)

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WHAT IS THE KONJUNKTIV 1?

The Konjunktiv 1 is a special form (also known as a mode) of a verb.

It shows that you aren't stating your own opinion, perception, question, or wish, but rather from something somebody else said. So, we use it for indirect and reported speech when we don't directly quote the other person.

It is mainly found in the news and the hospital. But there are also specific expressions that use the Konjunktiv 1.

WHAT IS INDIRECT SPEECH?

Direct Speech:

- Der Lehrer sagt: „*Deutsch ist nicht schwer!*“

Indirect Speech:

- Der Schüler sagt zu einem Freund: „*Mein Lehrer sagt, Deutsch **sei** nicht schwer.*“

→ The speaker is the teacher, and the student is reporting what the teacher said.

SPECIFIC EXPRESSIONS

The Konjunktiv 1 is also used for certain expressions:

- „Hoch **lebe** das Geburtstagskind!“
- „Gott **sei** dank!“
- „Es **lebe** die Freiheit.“
- „**Lebe** wohl!“

CONSTRUCTING THE KONJUNKTIV 1

Theoretically, there is a Konjunktiv 1 form for every verb. However, only "sein" is used with all grammatical persons (ich, du, er, etc.)

Singular	Konjunktiv 1	Plural	Konjunktiv 1
ich	sei	wir	seien

du	sei(e)st	ihr	seiet
er/sie/es/man	sei	sie	seien

For all other verbs, we usually only use the Konjunktiv 1 in the third person singular. To form it, we just have to take away the "n" from the infinitive form.

- Leben → "er **lebe**"
- Haben → "er **habe**"

In the second person (du/ihr), the Konjunktiv 1 is seldom used and is created by adding an "e" before the ending in the present tense (Präsens).

- Bringen → "du **bringest**" / "ihr **bringet**"
- Gehen → "du **gehest**" / "ihr **gehet**"

In informal speech, the Konjunktiv 2 (Subjunctive 2) is used instead.

In the first person singular (ich) and **first and third person plural** (wir/sie), the Konjunktiv 1 **is not used anymore**. Instead, the Konjunktiv 2 is used.

- Er sagt: „Wir gehen ins Kino.“
 „Er sagt, sie **würden** ins Kino **gehen**.“ (= Konjunktiv 2)
 „Er sagt, sie **gingen** ins Kino.“ (= Konjunktiv 2)

GOOD NEWS

In informal speech, we don't really use the Konjunktiv 1.

Instead, we use the indicative and a subordinate clause containing "dass" (dass-Satz):

- „Der Lehrer sagt, *dass* Deutsch nicht schwer *ist*."

But the sentence is only 100% grammatically correct with the Konjunktiv 1.

TENSES IN KONJUNKTIV 1

The Konjunktiv 1 can be used in the Präsens (simple present), Perfekt (perfect) and Futur 1 (werden-future) tenses.

The conjugated verb needs to be in the Konjunktiv 1 form.

Tense	Konjunktiv 1
Präsens	"Er sage " / "Er fahre "
Perfekt	"Er habe gesagt" / "Er sei gefahren"
Futur 1	"Er werde sagen" / "Er werde fahren"

SUMMARY

- The Konjunktiv 1 is used for indirect speech or reported speech.
- It is rarely used in spoken language and replaced by the Konjunktiv 2 or Indikativ (indicative).
- The Konjunktiv 1 only exists in Präsens, Perfekt and Futur 1.

TASK



- Is there something similar in your language?
- Learn the Konjunktiv 1 version of "sein", and memorize how to form the Konjunktiv 1 in the 3rd person singular (er/sie/es).

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