Imperfect subjunctive

¡El tiempo verbal más borracho de todos!
The Subjunctive in brief

The main situations in which the subjunctive is used:

- Wishes
- Emotions
- Impersonal expressions
- Recommendations
- Doubt/Denial
- Ojalá

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/Improbable:** 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicative tense of main verb</th>
<th>Subjunctive tenses permissible in dependent clause</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Present</td>
<td>present subjunctive or perfect subjunctive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Future</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Imperatives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Perfect</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Future perfect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Imperfect</td>
<td>Imperfect subjunctive or pluperfect subjunctive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Preterite</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Conditional</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pluperfect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Perfect conditional</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CANTAR</th>
<th>BEBER</th>
<th>VIVIR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cantara / cantase</td>
<td>bebiera / bebiese</td>
<td>viviera / vivies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cantaras / cantases</td>
<td>bebieras / bebies</td>
<td>vivieras / viviesz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cantara / cantase</td>
<td>bebiera / bebies</td>
<td>viviera / vivies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cantáramos / cantásemos</td>
<td>bebiéramos / bebiésemos</td>
<td>viviéramos / viviésemos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cantarais / cantaiseis</td>
<td>bebierais / bebies</td>
<td>vivierais / vivies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cantaran / cantasen</td>
<td>bebieran / bebies</td>
<td>vivieran / vivies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
   
   \[ \text{Si viniera a la fiesta, me quedaría.} \]
   
   If I had more money I would buy a house.
   
   \[ \text{Si tuviera más dinero, compraría una casa.} \]
   
   **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 always followed by the imperfect subjunctive
   
   e.g. Marta speaks Dutch as if she were a native
   
   \[ \text{Marta habla holandés como si fuera nativa} \]
   
   For her family, it is as if it had happened yesterday.
   
   \[ \text{Para su familia es como si hubiera ocurrido ayer.} \]
   
   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 + present subjunctive = I hope …
Ojalá + imperfect 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.
CARLITOS

"El bueno de Carlitos"

por Schutz

CLOMP!

JESSE BEAGLE ESTÚPIDO!

MUY BIEN, LIS
TULLO, VEN A
PONER LAS
COÑAS CLA-
RAS...

MENOS TU CUEN-
CO DE LA CENA!
DEVULVEME ESA
MANTILLA AHORA MISMO,
O NO VOLVERÁS A
VER TU CUENCO.

¿SABES QUE CREO, MAITE?, QUE A VECES CONFUNDIMOS AMOR CON SUFRIMIENTO. COMO SI SOFRIR POR ALGUIEN SIGNIFICARA QUE LO AMAMOS.
CUANDO ERA NIÑO ME GUSTABA MUCHO MADRUGAR, SOBRE TODO EN VERANO.

ASÍ PODÍA HACER MÁS COSAS DURANTE EL DÍA.

LÁSTIMA QUE NO MANTUVIERA ESA COSTUMBRE CUANDO CRECÍ.

VAMOS A BUSCAR A MI AMIGO, MAMÁ.

SIEMPRE ESTÁS CON ESE NIÑO, DANI. PODRÍAS JUGAR TAMBIÉN CON LOS OTROS NIÑOS DEL PUEBLO.

MIRA, MAMÁ, ¡AHÍ ESTÁ!
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.
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