MOODS

Modality is the use of verbal inflections that allow speakers to express their attitude toward what they are saying (for example, whether it is intended as a statement of fact, of desire, of command, etc.).

The use of moods in statements and questions

1. **Indicative mood:** It is the most used mood. It is the mood of reality. It means that it is the mood we use to express factual statements and beliefs. It is used with statements, negative sentences and questions as well.

Examples:
We are in class
You study Syntax
We don't live in China
Will riots help to solve the situation?

2. **Imperative mood:** The imperative mood expresses direct commands, prohibitions, and requests. In many circumstances, using the imperative mood may sound blunt (very direct) or even rude, so it is often used with care.

Examples:
Come whenever you want.
Help me!
Jeff, do your homework now!

3. **Subjunctive mood:** It is the mood of unreal situations (So, it expresses the opposite of the indicative mood) and in some cases used to express demand, necessity and urgency. It is used with dependent clauses (subordinated clauses). It is not widely used.

In English, the subjunctive mood has two forms. The first is the same form (= appearance) of the Past Simple, Past Perfect or would. The second one uses the "Bare infinitive" (= an infinitive without the preposition "to").

Uses of the subjunctive mood:
I. **The subjunctive mood used to express unreal situations**
a. **In conditions (They are like expeculations):**
*If I **had** time, I would finish my report. (Second conditional – It means that you don't have time in the present)*
*If I **had had** time, I would have finished my report. (Third conditional or Past unreal conditional – It means that now it is impossible to have time and that you didn't have it in the past either)*
*If I **were** you, I would save up that money. (Second conditional – You are not the other person)*

The use of **were** here is sometimes replaced by **was** in modern English and some people think that using **were** is old-fashioned. Anyway, it is still common to use it. **Was** is in reality the **indicative mood.**

b.   Clauses of concession with "as if":
*She spoke as if I **were** deaf. (She spoke very loudly)*
*He acted as if he **owned** the place. (His behavior was not appropriate and he was rude)*
*They behaved as if nothing **had happened**. (Something happened and they didn't care)*

c.   In clauses expressing wishes, desires, suppositions:

*I wish I **knew** my friends better. / If only I **knew** my friends better (It is a wish in the present- you don't know your friends well)*

*Paul wishes he **had gone** yesterday. / If only Paul **had gone** yesterday. (It is a wish in the past – The person didn't leave yesterday and now it is too late (Maybe he lost a job opportunity)*

*I wish it **would stop** raining. / If only it **would stop** raining. (It is a wish in the future – It has rained a lot)*

II.   In noun clauses after adjectives or verbs that express demand, necessity or urgency. (Here we use the bare infinitive)
After adjectives: *It is <u>necessary</u> that Johnny **be** on time. (You don't use "to" or "is")*
*It is <u>important </u>that you **be** ready for an emergency.*

After verbs: *We <u>insist</u> that she **be** contacted immediately. (You don't use "to" or "is")*
*We <u>insist </u>that you always **bring** your credit card to the store.*