Mood of Verbs

Indicative, Imperative, Interrogative, Subjunctive, and Conditional
What is “mood of verbs?”

Usually, when we hear the word, “mood,” we connect it to how someone is feeling.

Are you in a good mood or a bad mood today?

Mood of verbs has NOTHING to do with someone’s feelings.
What is “mood of verbs?”

Mood is the form of the verb that shows the mode or manner in which a thought is expressed. The moods are: indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive.
Let's start with the indicative mood.

The indicative mood is a verb form that makes a statement.

- The stingray is our school mascot.
- Julia called home because she forgot her Chromebook.
- Mrs. Wishart likes mashed potatoes.
Now let’s learn about the imperative mood.

The imperative mood expresses a command.

- Clean your room!!!!
- Please unload the dishwasher.
- Stop talking.
- Go to the grocery store to buy milk, bread, and cheese.
Verbs in the interrogative mood ask a question.

- How old are you?
- How many more slides are in this presentation?
- Why does the broccoli in the cafeteria smell like that?
Here is some information about the conditional mood.

With the conditional mood, one thing depends on another; if this, then that.

- If Eric runs fast, he will win the race.
- If Mrs. Wishart buys donuts for her students, they will be really happy.
What about the subjunctive mood?

The subjunctive is used to indicate conditions that aren’t true.

Subjunctive: If Mrs. Wishart were a billionaire, she would go on vacation at least once a month.

Why it’s subjunctive: Mrs. Wishart is not a billionaire, and she’s not going to go on vacation at least once a month.

Subjunctive: If Mrs. Wishart were your mother, she would let you have your friends over for pizza every weekend.

Why it’s subjunctive: Mrs. Wishart is not your mother, and she’s not going to let you have your friends over for pizza every weekend.
Subjunctives also pop up from time to time with the helping verb *had*. For past tense sentences, the *had* belongs in the part of the sentence that is untrue. The untrue part of the sentence may begin with *if*, or the *if* may be understood.

**Subjunctive with the word *if*:** If Mrs. Wishart *had known* about the mayonnaise, she would not have eaten that sandwich.

**Subjunctive without the word *if*:** *Had* Mrs. Wishart *known* about the mayonnaise, she would not have eaten that sandwich.

**Why it’s subjunctive:** Mrs. Wishart knew nothing about the mayonnaise; her friend later told her that the “dressing” on the sandwich was mayonnaise mixed with cilantro.
More about the subjunctive mood:

It also appears in commands, wishes, and requests.

The coach likes to be in charge, so he/she needs many subjunctive verbs:

- Coach Ward demands that the players’ parents be called to pick up their kids because they aren’t listening.
- Jeff, the cheer coach, asks that the team captain tell the other cheerleaders that today’s practice will be grueling because they need to prepare for the competition in Myrtle Beach.
- Miss Tina insists that the soccer team kick the ball 400 times before the end of practice.