

EXPRESSING A WISH WITH THE SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD – PART 1: *JE VOUDRAIS QUE ... + SUBJUNCTIVE*

Goal: By the end of this lesson, you should be able to express a wish or a desire by using the expression *Je voudrais que* + **Subject X + Verb in the subjunctive mood**. This expression is the equivalent of *I would like Subject X to + Verb in the infinitive* form in English.

We already learned how to turn verbs of the 1st and 2nd groups in the subjunctive mood. (See Lessons – Week 20 and Week 21 respectively at <http://www.frenchtasticpeople.com/w20.pdf> and <http://www.frenchtasticpeople.com/w21.pdf>) We also learned a few frequently-used verbs of the 3rd group and we conjugated them in the simple present tense and also the subjunctive mood. (See Lesson – Week 22 at <http://www.frenchtasticpeople.com/w22.pdf>). Now, I believe it is time we learn how to use the subjunctive mood in actual French statements.

In this lesson, I am going to show you how to translate into French expressions such as “I would like you to come with me” or “She would like them to drink more responsibly”.

Learning how to say *I Would Like You/Him/Her/Them To+ Verb...in French.*

Quite simple! Use the following formula **when you would like someone or something to do something or be a certain way**. It is just another way of expressing a wish.

Je (or *subject #1*) voudrais que + subject #2 (real name or personal pronoun) + subjunctive of the verb

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ABOVE FORMULA:

- **JE (or subject #1)** can be replaced by any other personal pronoun or real name. **Subject #2** can also be replaced by any other personal pronoun or real name.
- VOUDRAIS** is conjugated in the conditional form.
- QUE** is a relative pronoun. The verb that comes after QUE will be in the subjunctive form.

JE VOUDRAIS QUE + Subject #2 + subjunctive Verb literally = **I WOULD LIKE THAT** + Subject + Verb. So, if I say:

Je voudrais que tu manges, literally, what I am saying is ***I would like that you eat***. In more decent English, ***I would like you to eat***.

The term “Voudrais” is the conditional form of VOULOIR (to want), and you will need to know how to use this verb in the conditional to express wishes and desires. So I will conjugate VOULOIR in the conditional form below for you.

VOULOIR in the conditional

Je voudrais → I would like

Tu voudrais → You (singular) would like

Il/elle voudrait → He/She would like

Nous voudrions → We would like

Vous voudriez → You (plural) would like

Ils/elles voudraient → They would like

Tip: To easily remember this conjugation, simply write down the stem **VOUDR** and add the following endings: AIS, AIS, AIT, IONS, IEZ, and AIENT. Don't you think it is much easier this way? ☺

Now that you know how to conjugate the verb Vouloir in the conditional, you need to add the relative pronoun QUE (replaced by THAT in the literal translation). The relative pronoun QUE triggers the subjunctive form of the next verb we will use. So make sure you know how to conjugate the subjunctive of ER verbs, IR verbs and some of the 3rd group verbs we've studied in the previous lessons.

Examples:

1- *Elle voudrait que nous PARLIONS français* → She would like us to speak French.

(I don't really recommend this following tip, but if this can help you for now, just make the literal translation: She would like that I speak French, and replace each and every term by its French equivalent. Just make sure SHE WOULD LIKE + THAT is expressed in the French conditional form ELLE VOUDRAIT + QUE (see chart above), and the verb PARLIONS that follows QUE is in the subjunctive form)

2- *Je voudrais que tu APPRENES tes leçons* → I would like you to learn your lessons.
(Literal translation = I would like that you learn your lessons)

3- *Vous voudriez qu'ils se rasent tous les matins* → You would like them to shave every morning.
(Literal translation = You would like that they shave every morning).
Note: QUE + ILS = QU'ILS

We have reached the end of our lesson. So now you know how to say in French "I would like you to..." or "she would like them to..." Please send me your questions at prof_moderator@frenchtasticpeople.com or prof_frenchtastic@yahoo.fr if you do not understand very well my explanations. I will be more than happy to give you additional help. There will be an exercise to help you practice what you have just learned. So stay tuned! Merci, à bientôt!

P.S. Since we have been dealing with the verb VOULOIR (to want) in the conditional form, I will expand on this topic in the next 2 lessons. We will learn how to JE VOUDRAIS + Verb in the infinitive (example: Je voudrais manger – I would like to eat) and also, JE VOUDRAIS + noun (example: Je voudrais un stylo – I would like a pen).

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