The subjunctive mood is used to express actions which are subjective: will/wanting, emotion, doubt, possibility, necessity, judgment. It is nearly always found in dependent clauses introduced by que. The subjects of the dependent and main clauses are usually different. Remember that "that" is not always required in English.

Je veux que tu le fasses. I want you to do it.
Il faut que nous partions. It is necessary that we leave.

The subjunctive is used when the main clause expresses subjectivity, as with the following cases:

I. Verbs/expressions of will which express an order, a need, a piece of advice, or a want.

- aimer mieux que to like better / to prefer that
- demander que to ask (someone to do something)
- désirer que to desire that
- donner l'ordre que to order that
- empêcher que* to prevent
- éviter que* to avoid
- exiger que to demand that
- ordonner que to order that
- préférer que to prefer that
- proposer que to propose that
- souhaiter que to wish that
- suggérer que to suggest that
- vouloir que to want that
- il est à souhaiter que it is to be hoped
- il est essentiel que it is essential
- il est important que it is important that
- il est naturel que it is natural
- il est nécessaire que it is necessary that
- il est normal que it is normal that
- il est temps que it is time that
- il faut que it is necessary that
- il est urgent que it is urgent
- il vaut mieux que it is better that

*these verbs are followed by the ne expléité:
Évitez qu'il ne parte - Prevent him from leaving.

II. Verbs/expressions of emotion or feeling which indicate fear, happiness, anger, regret, surprise, or other sentiments.

- avoir peur que to be afraid that
- craindre que to fear that
- être content que to be happy that
- être désolé que to be sorry that
- être étonné que to be amazed that
- être heureux que to be happy that
- être surpris que to be surprised that
- être triste que to be sad that
- il est bizarre que it is odd
- il est bon que it is good that
- il est dommage que it is too bad that
- il est étonnant que it is amazing that
- il est étrange que it is strange
- il est heureux que it is fortunate
- il est honteux que it is shameful that
- il est inutile que it is useless that
- il est rare que it is rare that
- il est regrettable que it is regrettable that
- il est surprénant que it is surprising
- il est utile que it is useful that
- regretter que to regret that
### III. Verbs/expressions of doubt, possibility, and opinion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French Expression</th>
<th>English Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>chercher ... qui</td>
<td>to look for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>je cherche un homme qui sache la vérité (he may not exist = doubt)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>détester que</td>
<td>to hate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>douter que</td>
<td>to doubt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nier que</td>
<td>to deny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est convenable que</td>
<td>it is proper/fitting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est douteux que</td>
<td>it is doubtful that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est faux que</td>
<td>it is false</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est impossible que</td>
<td>it is impossible that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est improbable que</td>
<td>it is improbable that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est juste que</td>
<td>it is right/fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est possible que</td>
<td>it is possible that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est peu probable que</td>
<td>it is improbable that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il n'est pas certain que</td>
<td>it is not certain that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il n'est pas clair que</td>
<td>it is not clear that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il n'est pas évident que</td>
<td>it is not obvious that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il n'est pas probable que</td>
<td>it is improbable that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il n'est pas sûr que</td>
<td>it is not certain that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il n'est pas vrai que</td>
<td>it is not true that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il semble que</td>
<td>it seems that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il se peut que</td>
<td>it may be that</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Note: the following verbs and expressions do not take the subjunctive when they are used in the affirmative, because they express facts which are considered certain. When negative or interrogatory, they require the subjunctive (Example: Penses-tu qu'il soit sympa ? Oui, je pense qu'il est sympa. Non, je ne pense pas qu'il soit sympa.):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb/Expression</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>connaitre (quelqu'un) qui</td>
<td>to know (someone) that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>croire que</td>
<td>to believe that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>espérer que</td>
<td>to hope that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>être certain que</td>
<td>to be certain that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>être sûr que</td>
<td>to be sure that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est certain que</td>
<td>it is certain that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est évident que</td>
<td>it is obvious that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est probable que</td>
<td>it is probable that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est sûr que</td>
<td>it is certain that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il est vrai que</td>
<td>it is true that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il me (te, lui...) semble que</td>
<td>it seems to me (you, him...) that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>penser que</td>
<td>to think that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>savoir que</td>
<td>to know that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trouver que</td>
<td>to find/think that</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV. The following conjunctions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conjunction</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>à condition que</td>
<td>provided that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>à moins que*</td>
<td>unless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>afin que</td>
<td>so that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>avant que*</td>
<td>before</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bien que</td>
<td>although</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de crainte que*</td>
<td>for fear that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de peur que*</td>
<td>for fear that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>en attendant que</td>
<td>while, until</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jusqu'à ce que</td>
<td>until</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pour que</td>
<td>so that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pourvu que</td>
<td>provided that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quoique</td>
<td>even though</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quoi que</td>
<td>whatever, no matter what</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sans que</td>
<td>without</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These verbs are followed by the future tense.

V. The verbs in sentences with the indefinite pronoun ne ... personne, ne ... rien, quelqu'un, or quelque chose as the subject of the main clause.

VI. Main clauses which contain the words seul, unique, premier, dernier, or any superlative

C'est la seule personne que je connaisse. C'est l'étudiante la plus intelligente que j'aie.

NOTE: There is no future subjunctive. Even if the action is to happen in the future, the present subjunctive is used. However, there is a past subjunctive.

I know it seems overwhelming, but the thing to remember is the subjunctive = subjective. That should help you figure it out at least 90% of the time.