Subjunctive Worksheet: I Insist He Be, Be That As It May

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NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
insist / suggest / recommend / demand + that + subject + base form	She insisted that he leave.
essential / vital / important + that + base form	It is essential that she be informed.
Negative: not + base form · British alternative: should	We asked that he not be told. / that he should not be told.
Fixed formulas	Be that as it may… Come what may… Suffice it to say…

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
The doctor recommended that she takes a rest. (formal)	The doctor recommended that she take a rest.
It is vital that he doesn't be late.	It is vital that he not be late.
Be it as it may, we must go on.	Be that as it may, we must go on.

1. Complete

Complete with the subjunctive form of the verb in brackets.

1. The board demanded that the director _____ (resign).
2. It is essential that every passenger _____ (be) on board by 9.
3. I suggest that she _____ (not / sign) the contract yet.
4. The judge ordered that the prisoner _____ (release).
5. We recommend that each guest _____ (bring) photo ID.
6. It is important that he _____ (inform) immediately.
7. They insisted that I _____ (stay) for dinner.
8. The law requires that a company _____ (publish) its accounts.

2. Choose

Circle the correct option.

1. It is crucial that she (be / is being) present.
2. He proposed that the meeting (be postponed / is postponed).
3. (Be that as it may / Be it that it may), the plan failed.
4. We'll finish on time, come what (may / might).
5. The teacher asked that we (not / don't) use phones.
6. Suffice it (to say / saying) that he was not pleased.
7. I'd rather you (didn't / not) mention it. (unreal past, not subjunctive)
8. If that's your decision, so (be it / it be).

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. The manager insisted that he apologises. (formal)

2. It is vital that the patient doesn't eat before surgery.

3. They requested that the documents are sent by Friday. (formal)

4. Come what might, I'll be there.

5. Suffice to say it that he lost.

6. It's essential that everyone is arriving on time.

Writing

Write formal recommendations (6 sentences) from a safety committee after an accident at a festival. Use the mandative subjunctive at least four times and one fixed formula.

Speaking

- What would you recommend that a new student in your city do first?
- What rules would you insist that every school follow?
- Which fixed expressions in your language sound old-fashioned but are still used?
- Is it important that children learn a second language from age five?

Answer key

1. Complete: 1 resign · 2 be · 3 not sign · 4 be released · 5 bring · 6 be informed · 7 stay · 8 publish

2. Choose: 1 be · 2 be postponed · 3 Be that as it may · 4 may · 5 not · 6 to say · 7 didn't · 8 be it

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 The manager insisted that he apologise. · 2 It is vital that the patient not eat before surgery. · 3 They requested that the documents be sent by Friday. · 4 Come what may, I'll be there. · 5 Suffice it to say that he lost. · 6 It's essential that everyone arrive on time.

Writing, model answer: Following the incident at this year's festival, the committee makes the following recommendations. We recommend that the number of tickets be reduced by twenty per cent. It is essential that every entrance be staffed by trained personnel. The committee further insists that a medical team remain on site until all visitors have left. We propose that the organisers not sell alcohol after midnight. Be that as it may, the festival remains a valuable event for the city.