

STRUCTURES

A. If clauses

When a clause introduced by **si** expresses something that is contrary-to-fact or a hypothetical situation, **si** is always followed by the imperfect subjunctive. In this case, the verb in the main clause is usually in the conditional.

Si ella **tuviera** dinero, se lo **daría** a los mendigos.

If she had money, she would give it to the beggars.

The expression **como si** (*as if, as though*) also introduces a contrary-to-fact situation, and is always followed by the imperfect subjunctive.

Rosamunda habla **como si fuera** una gran actriz.

Rosamunda speaks as though she were a great actress.

But, when an *if* clause expresses a true or definite situation, **si** is always followed by a verb in the indicative mood.

Si el esposo le **escribe**, ella **regresa** a la casa.

If her husband writes her, she will return home.

Rewrite the following sentences, using the imperfect subjunctive or the present indicative of the verbs in parentheses.

1. Si Ud. (ser) _____ capaz de entenderme, no tengo inconveniente en recitar.
2. Si Ud. (saber) _____ lo que este amanecer significa para mí, me disculparía.
3. Si Rosamunda no (tener) _____ esposo e hijos, sería una actriz famosa.
4. Si mi esposo me (decir) _____ que no podía vivir sin mí, volvería a mi casa.
5. Si el soldadillo le (contar) _____ a sus amigos que había encontrado una mujer estupenda en el tren, ellos no le creerían.
6. Si ella (poder) _____ evitarlo, no viajaría en un departamento de tercera clase.
7. Si Ud. (querer) _____, la convidó a comerse unas rosquillas.