4.1

The subjunctive in adjective clauses

- When an adjective clause describes an antecedent that is known to exist, use the indicative. When the antecedent is unknown or uncertain, use the subjunctive.

MAIN CLAUSE: ANTECEDENT UNCERTAIN	CONNECTOR	SUBORDINATE CLAUSE: SUBJUNCTIVE
Busco un trabajo	**que**	**pague** bien.

Antecedent certain → Indicative	Antecedent uncertain → Subjunctive
Necesito el libro que **tiene** información sobre los prejuicios sociales. *I need the book that has information about social prejudices.*	Necesito un libro que **tenga** información sobre los prejuicios sociales. *I need a book that has information about social prejudices.*
Buscamos los documentos que **describen** el patrimonio de nuestros antepasados. *We're looking for the documents that describe our ancestors' heritage.*	Buscamos documentos que **describan** el patrimonio de nuestros antepasados. *We're looking for (any) documents that (may) describe our ancestors' heritage.*
Tiene un esposo que la **trata** con respeto y comprensión. *She has a husband who treats her with respect and understanding.*	Quiere un esposo que la **trate** con respeto y comprensión. *She wants a husband who will treat her with respect and understanding.*

*Algunos clientes prefieren un plato que no **tenga** carne.*

- When the antecedent of an adjective clause is a negative pronoun (**nadie, ninguno/a**), the subjunctive is used.

Antecedent certain → Indicative	Antecedent uncertain → Subjunctive
Elena tiene tres parientes que **viven** en San José. *Elena has three relatives who live in San José.*	Elena no tiene **ningún** pariente que **viva** en Limón. *Elena doesn't have any relatives who live in Limón.*
De los cinco nietos, hay dos que **se parecen** a la abuela. *Of the five grandchildren, there are two who resemble their grandmother.*	De todos mis nietos, no hay **ninguno** que **se parezca** a mí. *Of all my grandchildren, there's not one who looks like me.*
En mi patria, hay muchos que **apoyan** al candidato conservador. *In my homeland, there are many who support the conservative candidate.*	En mi familia, no hay **nadie** que **apoye** al candidato conservador. *In my family, there is nobody who supports the conservative candidate.*

- Do not use the personal **a** with direct objects that represent hypothetical persons.

Antecedent uncertain → Subjunctive	Antecedent certain → Indicative
Busco un abogado que **sea** honrado. *I'm looking for a lawyer who is honest.*	Conozco a un abogado que **es** honrado, justo e inteligente. *I know a lawyer who is honest, fair, and smart.*

- Use the personal **a** before **nadie** and **alguien**, even when their existence is uncertain.

Antecedent uncertain → Subjunctive	Antecedent certain → Indicative
No conozco a **nadie** que **se queje** tanto como mi suegra. *I don't know anyone who complains as much as my mother-in-law.*	Yo conozco a **alguien** que **se queja** aún más... ¡la mía! *I know someone who complains even more... mine!*

- The subjunctive is commonly used in questions with adjective clauses when the speaker is trying to find out information about which he or she is uncertain. If the person who responds knows the information, the indicative is used.

Antecedent uncertain → Subjunctive	Antecedent certain → Indicative
¿Me recomienda usted un buen restaurante que **esté** cerca de aquí? *Can you recommend a good restaurant that is near here?*	Sí, el restaurante de mi yerno **está** muy cerca y **es** excelente. *Yes, my son-in-law's restaurant is nearby, and it's excellent.*
Oigan, ¿no me pueden poner algún apodo que me **quede** mejor? *Hey guys, can't you give me a nickname that fits me better?*	Bueno, si tú insistes, pero Flaco es el apodo que te **queda** mejor. *OK, if you insist, but Skinny is the nickname that suits you best.*

TALLER DE CONSULTA

This additional grammar topic is covered in the **Manual de gramática, Lección 4.**

4.4 *To become:* **hacerse, ponerse,** and **volverse,** p. 248

¡ATENCIÓN!

An adjective clause (**oración subordinada adjetiva**) is a subordinate clause that describes a noun or pronoun, called the antecedent, in the main clause.

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES
Supersite: Audioscripts, SAM AK, Lab MP3s
SAM/WebSAM: WB, LM

Point out that while **que** is the most common connector, conjunctions like **donde** and **en que** can also be used before adjective clauses. Ex: **¿Hay algún restaurante donde se sirva comida guatemalteca?**

Remind students that one of the main characteristics of the subjunctive is the idea of uncertainty.

Remind students that the personal **a** is not used after certain verbs, regardless of whether or not the person is hypothetical. Ex: **No hay nadie que.../Hay una mujer que.../Tengo un novio que.../No tengo ningún amigo que...**