THE SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD

Watch the video and complete:

– The **indicative mood** is used to describe ........................................
  
  *Examples: Aly and Lucy are married, Aly and Lucy have a baby. Lucy is bored with Aly and Aly hates Lucy. Romance is dead.*

– The **subjunctive mood** refers to ................................................
  
  *Examples:
  a) wishes
  – I just wish that you ............... at me as if I ........ a piece of stuffing.
  – I wish you ........... a piece of stuffing.
  a) that clauses :
  – It is Christmas and if you were in the mood to ...you know ...
  – ...
  – Well then I suggest you ......................... an aspirin.
  – I suggest you .........................
  – I mean I just wish I ............... so darn tired.
  – I recommend that we ................. and early night unless you want to.
  – I really want to. I recommend you ............. a coffee.
  – ... I spoke to the doctor yesterday and he said that it's necessary that
    I _________________ you know...for at least a month.
  – It's important that the baby ______________ asleep tonight.
  – Yeah, it's essential that she ______________ all through the night.*

Now let's transform the previous sentences using the words given between brackets:

1. I suggest you take an aspirin.
   (should) ____________________________________________

2. I just wish I weren't so darn tired.
   (If only) ____________________________________________

3. I recommend that we have an early night.

Link to the grammar video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhqx6wmQf04
4. I recommend you have a coffee.
(should) ______________________________________

5. It's necessary that I not have you know...for at least a month.
(for me) ________________________________________________

6. It's important that the baby stay asleep tonight.
(for the baby) ___________________________________________

7. It's essential that she sleep all through the night
(for her) _______________________________________________

You’ll find the key on the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhqx6wmQf04

Link to the grammar video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhqx6wmQf04
The Subjunctive

The subjunctive is a special kind of present tense, using an infinitive that has no -s in the third person singular. It is often used when talking about something that somebody must do.

It is a formal construction. It is more commonly used in American English than in British English, and more often in the written form than in the spoken form.

Verbs that are commonly used with the subjunctive are: advise, ask, beg, decide, decree, desire, dictate, insist, intend, move, order, petition, propose, recommend, request, require, resolve, suggest, urge, and vote.

Fixed Expressions using the Subjunctive

,..., as it were (in a way, so to speak)
Be that as it may... (Whether that is true or not...)
Come what may... (Whatever happens...)
Far be it from me to disagree/criticise (To appear less hostile when disagreeing)
God bless you.
God save the Queen!
Heaven help us! (An exclamation of despair)
Heaven forbid! (An exclamation that you hope something won't happen)
If need be... (If it is necessary)
Long live the bride and groom! (We can’t do anything to change it)
..., so be it. (A suggestion or possibility is unpleasant or ridiculous)
Perish the thought! (It is obvious/I will give a short explanation)
Suffice it to say...

'Be' has special subjunctive forms:

It is vital that you be truthful about what happened.

He suggested that she be more vocal in the next meeting.

1. It's important that she (remember) ______ to take her medicine twice a day.

2. I suggest that Frank (read) ______ the directions carefully before assembling the bicycle. He doesn't want the wheels to fall off while he is riding down a hill.