Worksheet „Subjunctive“ in English

Explain the difference:

1 a) If I were an angel, I could fly.

b) If I (ever) was an angel, I could fly.

2 a) I suppose that John arrives at 6pm.

b) I suggest that John arrive at 6pm.

3 a) Believers think that God blesses them.

b) I do hope that God bless them.

4 a) Old people say that times were better in the old days.

b) Old people wish that times were better for them now.

5 a) I wish you didn’t speak so much.

b) I wish you would stop speaking so much.

6 a) If she gives him a rose, he will be so happy.

b) If she were to give him a rose, he might be embarrassed.

7 a) If you went to Paris, would you visit the Eiffel Tower?

b) If you were to got to Paris, would you visit the Eiffel Tower?

8 a) The essential thing is that she is here now.

b) It is essential that she be there when we arrive.

9 a) The teacher appreciates that his students are always on time.

b) The teacher insists that his students be on time.

10 a) It’s time, we have to leave.

b) It’s (about) time we left.

11 a) It’s high time for you to change your habits.

b) It’s high time you changed your habits.

12 a) They behave as if they know something.

b) They act as if they knew something.

13 a) Fallen again! It looks as though they have never seen a snowboard before.

b) Look at him! He handles it as if he had never seen a snowboard before.