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Subjunctive in Fixed Expressions

Hard | C1 | Advanced | Phrase | Sentence | Subjunctive mood | Verb | Verb mood | Word order | Idiom

1. Complete the detective's response to the prime suspect's rather creative alibi. Select the grammatically correct phrase.

"You claim you were abducted by aliens during the museum heist. ____, you still left your fingerprints on the display case."

Select one.

A) Be that as it is
B) Is that as it may
C) Were that as it may
D) Be that as it may

2. Help the stubborn knight declare his intentions! Select ALL the grammatically correct sentences that contain fixed subjunctive expressions.

Select all that apply.

A) Come what may, I shall defeat this dragon before dinnertime!
B) Far be it from me to tell a fire-breathing reptile how to behave, but it really shouldn't burn down villages.
C) Suffice it to say, my armor is completely fireproof.
D) Comes what may, I will not retreat from this cave!
E) Far is it from me to brag, but my sword is exceptionally sharp.

3. Help the amateur chef summarize his disastrous attempt at making a five-tier wedding cake. Choose the correct phrase.

"I won't bore you with the tragic details of the collapsing frosting. ____ that we will be serving store-bought cupcakes instead."

Select one.

A) Suffice it to say
B) Suffices it to say
C) Sufficed it to say
D) It suffices saying

4. Read the melodramatic student's email to their professor. Select ALL the sentences that correctly use fixed subjunctive expressions to complete the dramatic plea.

Select all that apply.

A) Be that as it may, I humbly request a 24-hour extension on my essay.
B) I will write an extra ten pages tonight, if need be.
C) If you decide to fail me, then so be it!
D) Be that as it is, I humbly request a 24-hour extension on my essay.
E) I will write an extra ten pages tonight, if needs are.

5. Help the skeptical office worker complete their dramatic message to a colleague.

I am not one to criticize the boss's ideas, so far _____ it from me to suggest his new marketing plan is completely ridiculous. However, come what _____, I am bringing my own coffee to this three-hour meeting. I will even hide under the conference table during the presentation, if _____ be!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1
A) be
B) is
C) am

Blank 2
A) may
B) might
C) comes

Blank 3

- **A)** need
- **B)** needing
- **C)** needed

6. Help the fussy food critic finalize her review of a highly unusual restaurant. Select ALL the sentences that correctly use a fixed subjunctive expression.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** Heaven forbid they actually serve the soup at an appropriate temperature!
- **B)** The previous chef was a culinary anarchist, as it were.
- **C)** Perish the thought that I should ever return to this bistro!
- **D)** Heaven forbids I ask for a clean napkin!
- **E)** The previous chef was a culinary anarchist, as it was.

7. Help the exhausted head chef complete their post-service diary entry by selecting the correct subjunctive phrases.

"If the food critic decides to give us a terrible review over the flaming crepe disaster, then _____—we probably earned it. Looking back at the evening, _____ that we will never again attempt to serve experimental durian soup in an unventilated dining room. And honestly, _____ anyone actually orders the 'Mystery Meat Surprise' tomorrow, because I have absolutely no idea what the sous-chef put in it."

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** so be it
- **B)** so it is
- **C)** thus is it

Blank 2

- **A)** suffice it to say
- **B)** suffices it to say
- **C)** sufficing to say

Blank 3

- **A)** heaven forbid
- **B)** heaven forbids
- **C)** heavens forbidding

8. Help the skeptical accountant phrase her diplomatic (but brutal) feedback. Choose the correct expression to complete her thought.

"____ to criticize the CEO's plan to replace our office chairs with exercise balls, but I foresee a dramatic rise in workplace injuries."

Select one.

- **A)** Far is it from me
- **B)** Far be it from me
- **C)** Far to be from me
- **D)** Far it be from me

9. Complete the frustrated theater director's notes to their eccentric lead actor by choosing the correct fixed expressions.

"Far _____ to criticize your 'creative process,' but screaming at the prop guy is not method acting. You claim you absolutely need a live swan on stage to find your character's motivation; _____, our meager theater budget only covers a rubber chicken. We open tomorrow night, and _____, the show must go on—even if it's poultry-based!"

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** be it from me
- **B)** is it for me
- **C)** were it from me

Blank 2

- **A)** be that as it may
- **B)** is that as it might
- **C)** was that as it may

Blank 3

- **A)** come what may
- **B)** comes what might
- **C)** came what may

10. Complete the eccentric theater director's speech to the cast.

If the lead actor insists on wearing a giant chicken suit in the tragic finale, then so _____ it! We shall embrace the absurdity, as it _____, and transform it into a modern masterpiece. We don't have the budget to rewrite the script, so _____ it to say, the chicken stays.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** be
- **B)** seems
- **C)** does

Blank 2

- **A)** were
- **B)** was
- **C)** has

Blank 3

- **A)** suffice
- **B)** suffices
- **C)** sufficing