

## THE IMPERATIVE

- **Definition:** Imperatives are verbs used to give orders, commands, warning or instructions, and (if you use "please") to make a request. It is one of the three moods of an English verb (indicative, imperative and subjunctive).

For example:

- Give me that tape, please.

To make the imperative, use the infinitive of the verb without "to" For example:

- Come here!
- Sit down!

To make a negative imperative, put "do not" or "don't" before the verb: For example:

- Don't go!
- Do not walk on the grass.

You can also use "let's" before the verb if you are including yourself in the imperative. The negative of "let's" is "let's not".

For example:

- Let's stop now.
- Let's have some lunch.
- Let's not argue
- Let's not tell her about it.

➤ **The Imperative Use:**

- **Orders**

Adults do not usually give each other orders, unless they are in a position of authority. However, adults can give orders to children and to animals. The intonation of an order is important: each word is stressed, and the tone falls at the end of the sentence. For example:

- Sit down now!

\* "Sit", "down" and "now" are all stressed, and the tone falls on "now".

• **Warnings**

\* You can use the imperative to warn someone of danger. All the words in the warning are stressed, but the last word has a higher tone than the first word. For example:

\* "Sit", "down" and "now" are all stressed, and the tone falls on "now".

· Watch out!

· Look out!

· Don't cross!

• **Advice**

When you give advice using the imperative, the words are stressed normally. For example:

· Don't tell him you're resigning now! Wait until Monday when he's in a better mood.

· Don't drink alcohol

· Don't eat heavy meals

• **Requests**

You can also use the imperative to make a request, but you should use a polite word before the verb. For example:

· Please take a seat.

· Please wait here.

· Please hold the line.

· Please don't smoke here.

➤ **Note:**

Note that an imperative sentence does not require a subject; the pronoun "you" is implied.

➤ Exercises:

1 Make the following instructions negative:

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| a. Write a letter    | Don't write a letter |
| b. Sit down          |                      |
| c. Clean the room    |                      |
| d. Make dinner       |                      |
| e. Call your mother  |                      |
| f. Put on your shoes |                      |

2 Make the following instructions affirmative:

- |                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| a. Don't send the parcel       | Send the parcel |
| b. Don't make your bed         |                 |
| c. Don't use the computer      |                 |
| d. Don't close the window      |                 |
| e. Don't take those books away |                 |
| f. Don't open the fridge       |                 |

3 Match the two columns to make instructions:

- |         |                            |                                 |
|---------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a Feed  | <input type="checkbox"/>   | have a drink                    |
| b Wash  | <input type="checkbox"/>   | put on your jacket; it's hot    |
| c Don't | <input type="checkbox"/>   | your bedroom                    |
| d Do    | <input type="checkbox"/>   | go to class; it's eight o'clock |
| e Let's | <input type="checkbox"/>   | the dishes                      |
| f Tidy  | <input type="checkbox"/>   | your homework                   |
| g Don't | a <input type="checkbox"/> | the bird                        |
| h Let's | <input type="checkbox"/>   | leave the door open             |

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