

06 Imperatives

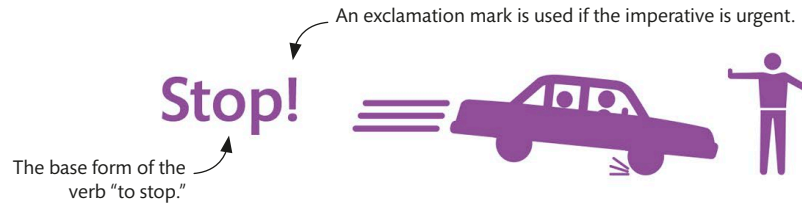
Imperatives are used to give commands or to make requests. They can also be used to give warnings or directions.

See also:

Types of verbs 49 Suggestions and advice 59
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6.1 IMPERATIVES

Imperatives are formed using the base form of the verb (the infinitive without "to").



FURTHER EXAMPLES

Get up.



Be careful!



Give that to me.



Eat your breakfast.



Help!



Read this book.



6.2 NEGATIVE IMPERATIVES

"Do not" or "don't" can be added before the verb to make an imperative negative.

Do not } turn right.
Don't }



FURTHER EXAMPLES

Don't eat that cake.



I've just painted that door.
Don't touch it.



Don't rush. I'm not in a hurry.



Don't sit there. That chair is broken.



6.3 SUBJECTS WITH IMPERATIVES

An imperative sentence does not usually have a subject, but sometimes a noun or a pronoun is used to make it clear who is being talked to.

Everybody sit down.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

Phillip, come here.



Someone open the window.



You stay there.



Have fun, Anne.



For emphasis "you" can be used in an imperative clause.

The subject can also be placed at the end.

6.4 POLITE REQUESTS

Imperatives in English can be considered rude. Words can be added to make them more polite.

Please close the door.



"Please" can be placed before the imperative verb to make a request more polite.

Just give me a minute, please.



"Just" can go before the imperative.

"Please" can also be placed at the end of the sentence.

Do come in.



"Do" can go before the imperative verb to make a request more formal.

6.5 MAKING SUGGESTIONS WITH "LET'S"

"Let's" can be used to make a suggestion for an activity that includes the speaker.

It's sunny today. Let's go out.



Base form.

It's cold. Let's not go out.



"Not" goes after "let's" to form the negative.