

IMPERATIVES – A2

Main theme addressed	In this lesson, you will learn about the imperatives.
Key Goals	Here is an outline of what you will learn today: 1. When do we use imperatives? 2. How to make imperatives politer? 3. Types of imperative sentences 4. Imperatives with first- and third-person subjects

1. When do we use imperatives?

We use imperatives when:

- to tell people what to do or not to do
- to offer somebody:
 - a piece of advice,
 - some suggestions,
 - some commands,
 - some requests,
 - some orders,
 - some instructions,
 - some offers,
 - some invitations.

Positive imperatives: the word “**do**” is put before the base verb.

Examples:

Open the door.

Call them.

Exercise:

Write the imperative form of these sentences to make the person do something.

1. Tell Jim to grill some meat.

_____.

2. Tell somebody to come to work early.

_____.

3. Tell Jane to buy a new boat.

_____.

Answers:

1. Grill some meat, Jim.
2. Come to work early.
3. Buy a new boat, Jane.

Negative imperatives: the negation “**don’t**” is put before the base verb.

Examples:

Don’t do that.

Don’t make fun of him.

Note: we do not usually use subject in imperatives – the subject is an implied second person (you).

2. How to make imperatives politer?

- With adding phrases such as “just,” “please,” or “if you don’t mind,, to the sentence

Examples:

Bring some milk, if you don’t mind.

Open your books, please.

Just don’t shout at him.

- With adding question tags.

Example:

Open the window, won’t you?

Open the window, can’t you?

3. Types of Imperative Sentences

- requests: Bring me some bread, please.
- invitations: Come to my party.
- commands: Leave this alone, please.
- instructions: Open your books on page 201.

4. Imperatives with First- and Third-person Subjects

If we want to refer to a first- or third-person subject, use “let” or “let’s.”

Examples of **first-person imperatives**:

Example with I	Example with we
"Let me see. What time is my doctor's appointment?" (i.e., the speaker is reminding himself to remember the time of his doctors appointment)	"Let's remember to do our homework tomorrow."

Third-person imperatives are less common, but they use "let" + pronoun.

Examples of **third-person imperatives**:

Example with he/she/it	Example with they
"Let her try to shut me up!"	"Let him gossip about me, if he dares."

To form **negative imperatives** with a first or third person, we use:

- "let's not," with third person:
Example:
"Let's not forget to come on time tomorrow."

- "don't let me," with first person:
Example:
"Don't let me hit him."

Exercise:

Write the imperative form of the following sentences.

1. Tell your brother to wake up early the next day.

_____.

2. Tell your mom not to forget to set the alarm clock.

_____.

3. Tell the whole group to be quiet.

_____.

Answers:

1. Wake up early tomorrow.
2. Don't forget to set the alarm clock.
3. Let's be quiet.

Learn more:

<https://www.grammarbank.com/imperatives-exercise.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdqTyDc9IUQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojLG9XrWjKY>