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The imperative is a verb form used to make requests, give instructions, orders, warnings or commands.

We use imperative to ask or tell people to do things:

- **Open** your books to page 24, please.
- **Look** at the picture.
- **Read** the questions and **write** your answers.

To make the imperative, we use the [infinitive](#) of the verb **without 'to'**. An imperative sentence usually does not require a subject; the pronoun 'you' is implied.

- **Sit** down!
- **Marry** me!

Negative Imperative

We use '**don't**' (do not) for negative imperatives:

- **Don't write** in pencil. Use a pen.
- **Don't use** your dictionary too often.
- Please **don't forget** to do your homework!

Advice

We can use the imperative to give advice:

- **Don't drink** so much. You have to drive tomorrow morning.

- **Don't put** on that hat. It looks awful.
- **Eat** lots of fruit and vegetables.
- **Drink** lots of water.
- **Do** some exercise every day.

Requests

We often use 'please' to make imperatives less direct and more polite. 'Please' can come at the beginning or the end of the sentence.

- Please **shut up**!
- **Don't smoke** here, please.

Warnings

You can use the imperative to warn someone of danger:

- **Watch out** for that tree!
- **Get out** of the house! It's burning!

Wishes and Support

Other common uses of imperatives:

- **Have** a good day / weekend / holiday.
- **Enjoy** your meal.
- **Don't work** too hard.
- **Don't worry**!

Recipes or Manuals

Making Pancakes

1. **Put** 125g of flour into a bowl.
2. **Add** three large eggs.
3. **Pour** in 250ml of milk.
4. **Mix** everything together well.
5. **Heat** a large frying pan.

6. **Melt** *a little butter in the pan.*
7. **Pour** *some of the mixture into the pan.*
8. **Cook** *it for a couple of minutes.*
9. **Turn it over** and **cook** *the other side.*
10. **Put** *it on a plate.*
11. **Eat** *it with your favourite toppings.*
12. **Don't eat** *too many!*

Let's

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'.

- **Let's play!**
- **Let's have** *something to eat.*
- **Let's not** *argue.*
- **Let's not tell** *them about it.*

Watch the video about the imperative:

See also:

[Verbs: Overview](#)

[Verbs: The Infinitive](#)