

The Imperatives

Grammar Sense

TIIAME

The Imperatives

AFFIRMATIVE IMPERATIVES

BASE FORM OF VERB	
Take	the contract to Mr. Douglas.
Copy	this for me.
Call	the bank.

NEGATIVE IMPERATIVES

DO + NOT	BASE FORM OF VERB
Do not Don't	worry.
	smoke.
	forget.

- ◉ The subject of an imperative sentence is **you** (singular or plural), but we do not usually say or write the subject of the verb.

Examples:

Go to the third floor. (Who? **You**.)

Turn right. (Who? **You**.)

Don't worry. (Who? **You**.)

The Imperatives: Meaning and Use Notes

Common Uses of Imperatives

◎ 1A

Use the affirmative and negative imperatives to give **commands, warnings, instructions, or directions.**

◎ 1B

Commands express the authority of one person over another. Commands usually express strong feelings.

Parent to Child: **Sit down** and **be quiet!**

Boss to Employees: **Be** on time for the meeting.

Teacher to Student: **Don't run** in the hallways.

Common Uses of Imperatives

◎ 1C

Warnings express danger.

Bus Driver to Passenger: **Be** careful! The steps are wet.

Two Strangers on the Street: **Look out!** A truck!

◎ 1D

Instructions give information about what to do. Instructions are more neutral than commands and warnings.

On a Test: **Underline** the negative sentences.

On a Copy Machine: **Deposit** quarters.

Common Uses of Imperatives

◎ 1E

Directions are also neutral. Directions give information about how to go somewhere.

Turn right at the corner. The school is on the left.

Take Interstate 91 to Exit 3.

Polite Imperatives

◎ 2

Please makes an imperative more polite. We use **please** in commands and instructions. We do not use **please** in warnings and directions. **Please** comes at the beginning or at the end of an imperative sentence. Use a comma if please comes at the end.

Command: **Please sit down** and **be** quiet!

Instruction: **Write** your name on your paper, **please**.

Using You in Imperatives

◎ 3

Sometimes we use **you** at the beginning of an imperative sentence for emphasis or to talk to a specific person in a group we are talking to. You can also add the person's name.

Looking for Lost Car Keys:

You look next to the sofa.

Gina, you look under the desk.