

IMPERATIVES

In order to want to tell someone to do something there is a special form of the verb known as the imperative.

To form the formal imperative you can take the following steps:

- a) Remove the **-o** from the first person singular of the present indicative.
- b) For the imperative singular add **-e** to the stem of the **-ar** verbs, and **-a** to the stem of the **-er** and **-ir** verbs,
- c) For the imperative plural add **-en** to the stem of the **-ar** verbs, and **-an** to the stem of the **-er** and **-ir** verbs.
- d) You can add *usted* and *ustedes* after the verb. However, the pronouns are very often omitted.

Some examples:

dejar – dejo – **deje** – **dejen**
despertar – despierto – **despierte** – **despierten**
doblar – doblo – **doble** – **doblen**
echar – echo – **eche** – **echen**
esperar – espero – **espere** – **esperen**
hablar – hablo – **hable** – **hablen**
pasar – paso – **pase** – **pasen**
pensar – pienso – **piense** – **piensen**
soñar – sueño – **sueñe** – **sueñen**

No **deje** todo para última hora
(Don't leave everything until the last moment)
¡Despierte! (Wake up!)
Doble a la izquierda - (Turn to the left)
Eche para adelante – (Lead on)
¡Espere! – (Wait!)
Hable despacio (Speak slowly)
No lo **piense** (Don't think about it)

hacer – hago – **haga** – **hagan**
perder – pierdo – **pierda** – **pierdan**
tener – tengo – **tenga** – **tengan**
volver – vuelvo – **vuelva** – **vuelvan**
decir – digo – **diga** – **digan**
dormir – duermo – **duerma** – **duerman**
salir – salgo – **salga** – **salgan**

¡Hágalo! (Do it!) Object pronouns always follow and are attached to the affirmative imperative.

¡No lo haga! (Don't do it!) In the negative imperative, object pronouns always, immediately, go before the verb.

No **pierda** más tiempo (Don't waste any more time)

Tenga cuidado (Be careful)

Vuelva mañana (Come back tomorrow)

¡Dígame? (Hallo?) When answering the telephone.

Duerma bien (Sleep well)

Irregular imperatives:

dar – **dé** – **den**; estar – **esté** – **estén**; ser – **sea** -- **sean**;

ir – **vaya** – **vayan**.

Déme la cuenta (Please, give me the bill)

Sea justo (Be just)

Vaya a casa (Please, go home)

In order to instruct someone you know to do something, change the usted forms, in the singular affirmative imperative, as follows:

a) For the tú form of the verbs ending in **--ar** , change the **–e** into **–a**. **Espere** (usted) un momento – **Espera** un momento.

b) For the tú form of the verbs ending in **--er** and **--ir**, change the **–e** into **–a**. **Llame** (usted) un taxi – **Llama** un taxi.

c) There are some irregular verbs:

decir – **di** – **¡Dilo!** (Say it!)

hacer – **haz** – **¡Hazlo!** (Do it!)

ir – **ve** – **Ve** y **vuelve** pronto (Go and return soon)

oír – **oye** – **¡Oyeme!** (Listen to me!)

poner – **pon** – **¡Pon** la mesa! (Set the table!)

ser – **sé** – **¡Sé** generoso! (Be generous!)

tener – **ten** – **¡Ten** paciencia! (Be patient!)

traer – **trae** – **¡Trae** el libro! (Bring the book!)

venir – **ven** -- **¡Ven** aquí! (Come here!)

For the singular negative form for ‘tú’ add –s to the singular usted form of all the verbs:

No hables con la boca llena (Don't speak with your mouth full)

¡No lo digas! (Don't say it!)

¡No vayas! (Don't go!)

Si no conviene, **no lo hagas**; si no es verdad, **no lo digas**.
(If it is not advantageous, don't do it; if it is not true, don't say it)

Marco Aurelio (121 A.D. – 180 A. D.)

For the informal affirmative imperative in the plural, change as follows:

For all the verbs ending in **–ar**, **–er** and **–ir**, drop the **–r** and add the consonant **–d**.

Educad a los niños y no será necesario castigar a los hombres.

(Bring your children up properly and you won't need to punish men)

Pitágoras (570 B.C. – 495 B.C.)

Para dialogar,
preguntad primero,
después... **escuchad**.

(For conversing,
first, ask;
then... listen.)

Antonio Machado (1875 -- 1939)