

COMMUNICATION

Learn the imperative

LEVEL

Beginner (A1)

NUMBER

EN_A1_2102X

LANGUAGE

English

Learning outcomes

- I can form the imperative of some common verbs.
- I can give orders and directions using the imperative.



Get ready...

Sit down, **open** your
computer and **take out**
your pencil.

Let's go!





Read the sentences



Pack your suitcase.

Answer the phone!



Sign here please.

Smile for the photo.





What is the imperative?



The **imperative** is used for telling someone what to do.

It is used for **requests**, **commands** and **suggestions**.





The imperative

To form the imperative, drop the word **to** from the **infinitive** of a verb and put the imperative verb **at the beginning** of the sentence.

The imperative doesn't change the word order of the rest of the sentence.

Infinitive	Imperative
to come	Come in!
to hurry	Hurry up!
to close	Close the window!
to stop	Stop talking!
to wait	Wait for me!



Transform the sentences

Use the infinitive in brackets to create imperative sentences.

1 _____ your teeth before bed. (to brush)



Brush your teeth before bed.

2 _____ the window. (to open)



3 _____ to your teacher. (to listen)



4 After school, _____ your homework. (to do)



5 _____ the kitchen after you cook. (to clean)



6 _____ to bed when you get home. (to go)





Warning!

Stop talking and **go** away!
Put that down!

- The imperative is a **very direct** form of speech and it must be used carefully.
- It is used when **instructions** or **directions** are given.
- We don't often use it in social situations because it can sound **rude**.



The imperative

Requests in social situations are usually made in the form of a question, or by adding the word *please*.

Imperative

Open the door.

Pass the salt.

Wait a minute.

Polite

Can you open the door?

Pass the salt, please.

Could you please wait a minute?



Look at the next two pages
and decide whether they are
using the **imperative** or not.



Imperative or polite language?

to read



Can you **read** us a story,
please?

to validate



Validate your ticket on the
bus.



Imperative or polite language?

to put on



Put on your shoes.

to close



Could you please
close the door?

to give



Give me the books.



The negative imperative

Don't do that!
Don't forget to post that card.

- Which word is at the beginning of the sentence?
- Which word is the imperative verb?
- Do you use *to* in negative imperatives?

The imperative can also be used negatively to tell people **not** to do something.

To form the negative imperative we simply add the word **don't** before the infinitive and remove the word **to**.

The negative imperative doesn't change the word order of the rest of the sentence.



The negative imperative

Here are some examples of the **negative imperative**.

Verb	Negative imperative
to run	Don't run in the house.
to talk	Don't talk in class.
to walk	Don't walk on the road.
to forget	Don't forget to buy bread.
to be	Don't be late for work.



Practise using the negative imperative

1 _____ to me right now. (to talk)



Don't talk to me right now.

2 _____ to wear sunscreen on holiday.
(to forget)



3 _____ your mobile phone in class.
(to answer)



4 _____ your clothes on the floor. (to
leave)



5 _____ until everyone is at the table.
(to eat)



6 _____ your shoes on the table! (to
put)





Let's eat!
Let's go to the beach.

Another very common use of the imperative is with the word **let's**. In this form it is used to make a suggestion.

It is quite casual and is not seen as rude or impolite.

Examples of *Let's*

Write down 5 different examples of occasions when you could use the imperative with *let's*. *Let's go on holiday!*





Giving directions with the imperative



Go straight for 200 metres then **turn** left.

- In general, the imperative is a very direct way of speaking. Usually, it is not the most polite way to talk to someone.
- However, it is okay to use the imperative when giving **instructions** or **directions**.



Do you remember these words?



far

next to

close

between

behind

through

corner

turn

straight

left



Giving directions

to cross



Cross the road. The bus stop is on the other side.

to go straight



Go straight down the street.



Giving directions

to turn left



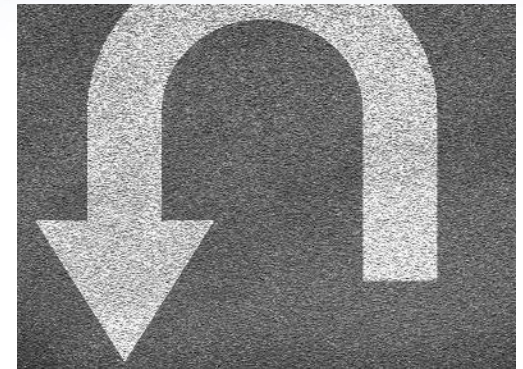
Turn left at the end of the street.

to turn right



Turn right after the fountain.

to turn around



Turn around. You're going in the wrong direction.



Fill in the gaps



Excuse me, can you help me _____? I'm looking for the museum.

Yes, of course. _____ me your map.



Here you go. Is it _____ from here?

Let's see. No, it's actually quite _____.



show

close

please

far



Fill in the gaps



Great! So _____ me, how do I get there?

It's right around the corner. _____ the road and turn left.
Then you're there!



Wonderful! Thanks for your help. _____ a nice day!

cross

tell

have



Role play

Create a roleplay and then switch roles.



Tourist

You are lost!
Ask for
directions to
somewhere.

Excuse me, can you help me? I'm lost.

Yes, of course. Where do you want to go?



Helper!

You meet a lost
tourist. Give
them directions
to somewhere
in your town.

- turn
- go
- cross
- far
- close
- next to
- behind
- between



End of the lesson

Idiom

on a shoestring budget

Meaning: to have very little money to spend

Example: They went on holiday on a shoestring budget.



Additional practice



Match the sentences

1 The church is across...

2 You need to go around...

3 After the vegetable shop, take...

4 You're going the wrong way. You need to...

5 You need to cross the...

a a left.

b the street.

c turn around.

d the corner.

e street at the intersection.



Fill in the gaps



Can you _____ me get to the supermarket?
I'm lost!

- Yes, of course. First you need to _____.
You're going in the wrong direction. Then go straight
down the street until the end. _____ left and
walk for 200 metres. Then _____ a right and
_____ the road. You will see the supermarket
on the corner.



turn around

cross

take

turn

help

;

Sit!





What do you want to do tonight?

Imagine you're going out tonight with your classmates. Suggest a few things to do using *Let's...*



Let's go to the cinema.

No, I went yesterday.

OK. Let's go out to eat then.

Where?

...



Answer key

P.7: 2) Open, 3) Listen, 4) do, 5) Clean, 6) Go

P.15: 2) Don't forget, 3) Don't answer, 4) Don't leave, 5) Don't eat, 6) Don't put

P.22/23: please, Show, far, close, tell, cross, have



Answer key



P.28: 1) b, 2) d, 3) a, 4) c, 5) e

P.29: help, turn around, Turn, take, cross



Summary

The imperative:

- To form the imperative, **drop** the word **to** from the **infinitive** of a verb and put the imperative verb at the **beginning** of the sentence.
- The imperative doesn't change the word order of the rest of the sentence.
- *Come in! Go away!*

Using the imperative:

- The imperative is a **very direct** form of speech and it must be used carefully. It is used when instructions or directions are given. We don't often use it in social situations because it can sound **rude**.
- Requests in social situations are usually made as a question, or by adding the word *please*.

The negative imperative:

- The imperative can also be used negatively to tell people **not to do** something.
- To form the **negative imperative** we simply add the word **don't** before the infinitive and **remove** the word **to**. The negative imperative doesn't change the word order of the rest of the sentence.
- *Don't do that!*

Let's:

- Another very common use of the imperative is with the word **let's**. In this form it is used to make a suggestion. It is quite casual and is not seen as rude or impolite.
- *Let's go to the cinema.*



Vocabulary

to read

to validate

to put on

to close

to give

to cross

to go straight

to turn right

to turn left

to turn around

