

3.2 Formal (usted/ustedes) commands

ANTE TODO

As you learned in **Lección 2**, the command forms are used to give orders or advice. Formal commands are used with people you address as **usted** or **ustedes**. Observe these examples, then study the chart.

Hable con ellos, don Francisco.
Talk with them, Don Francisco.

Coma frutas y verduras.
Eat fruits and vegetables.

Laven los platos ahora mismo.
Wash the dishes right now.

Beban menos té y café.
Drink less tea and coffee.



Tutorial

AYUDA

By learning formal commands, it will be easier for you to learn the subjunctive forms that are presented in **Estructura 3.3**, p. 108.

Formal commands (Ud. and Uds.)

Infinitive

limpiar
barrer
sacudir
decir (e:i)
pensar (e:ie)
volver (o:ue)
servir (e:i)

Present tense yo form

limpio
barro
sacudo
digo
pienso
vuelvo
sirvo

Ud. command

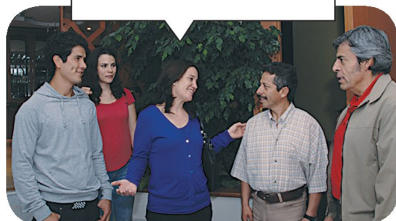
limpie
barra
sacuda
diga
piense
vuelva
sirva

Uds. command

limpien
barran
sacudan
digan
piensen
vuelvan
sirvan

- ▶ The **usted** and **ustedes** commands, like the negative **tú** commands, are formed by dropping the final **-o** of the **yo** form of the present tense. For **-ar** verbs, add **-e** or **-en**. For **-er** and **-ir** verbs, add **-a** or **-an**.

Don Diego, quédese a cenar con nosotros.



No se preocupen, yo los ayudo.



- ▶ Verbs with irregular **yo** forms maintain the same irregularity in their formal commands. These verbs include **conducir, conocer, decir, hacer, ofrecer, oír, poner, salir, tener, traducir, traer, venir, and ver**.

Oiga, don Manolo...
Listen, Don Manolo...

¡Salga inmediatamente!
Leave immediately!

Ponga la mesa, por favor.
Set the table, please.

Hagan la cama antes de salir.
Make the bed before leaving.

- ▶ Note also that verbs maintain their stem changes in **usted** and **ustedes** commands.

e:ie

No **pierda** la llave.
Cierren la puerta.

o:ue

Vuelva temprano, joven.
Duerman bien, chicos.

e:i

Sirva la sopa, por favor.
Repitan las frases.

AYUDA

It may help you to study the following five series of syllables. Note that within each series, the consonant sound doesn't change.

ca que qui co cu
za ce ci zo zu
ga gue gui go gu
ja ge gi jo ju

- Verbs ending in **-car**, **-gar**, and **-zar** have a spelling change in the command forms.

sacar	c → qu	saque, saquen
jugar	g → gu	juegue, jueguen
almorzar	z → c	almuerce, almuercen

- These verbs have irregular formal commands.

Infinitive	Ud. command	Uds. command
dar	dé	den
estar	esté	estén
ir	vaya	vayan
saber	sepa	sepan
ser	sea	sean

- To make a formal command negative, simply place **no** before the verb.

No ponga las maletas en la cama. **No ensucien** los sillones.
Don't put the suitcases on the bed. Don't dirty the armchairs.

- In affirmative commands, reflexive, indirect, and direct object pronouns are always attached to the end of the verb.

Siéntense, por favor. Acuéstense ahora.
Sígame, Laura. Ponganlas en el suelo, por favor.

- **¡Atención!** When a pronoun is attached to an affirmative command that has two or more syllables, an accent mark is added to maintain the original stress.

limpie → límpielo lean → léanlo
diga → dígamelo sacudan → sacúdanlos

- In negative commands, these pronouns always precede the verb.

No **se** preocupe. No **los** ensucien.
No **me lo** dé. No **nos las** traigan.

- **Usted** and **ustedes** can be used with the command forms to strike a more formal tone. In such instances, they follow the command form.

Muéstrele usted la foto a su amigo. **Tomen ustedes** esta mesa.
Show the photo to your friend. Take this table.

recursos

VText

CA

pp. 11–12, 122

CP

pp. 31–32

CH

pp. 40–43



¡INTÉNTALO!

Indica los mandatos (*commands*) afirmativos y negativos correspondientes.

- escucharlo (Ud.) Escúchelo No lo escuche.
- decírmelo (Uds.) _____.
- salir (Ud.) _____.
- servírnoslo (Uds.) _____.
- barrerla (Ud.) _____.
- hacerlo (Ud.) _____.