Imperative Verbs

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Grammar Notes

A. Introduction

Imperative verbs are common in English. They are different from other verbs because they don’t need a subject! Imperative verbs are always in the simple present tense.

B. Pattern

With imperative verbs, the subject is always you, but it is hidden. We never say or write you. We only say or write the imperative verb. The verb can be followed by a noun object, an adjective, or an adverb.

Possible Patterns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pattern</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Stop!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V + N</td>
<td>Close the door.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V + Adj</td>
<td>Be quiet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V + Adv</td>
<td>Drive slowly.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Use

Imperative verbs are used to give commands, warnings, or instructions. For example, parents, teachers, police officers, and doctors often use imperative verbs.

Commands
• Stop!
• Pay attention.
• Do it right now.

Warnings
• Be careful!
• Watch out!
• Watch where you’re going!

Instructions
• Turn off the lights.
• Open your book to page 2.
• Take these vitamins.
Grammar Notes cont.

D. Form

Imperative verbs are very common in positive and negative sentences. Negative imperative verbs begin with **do not**, which is usually shortened to **don’t**. They can also begin with the adverb **never**.

**Positive Sentences**
- **Be** on time.
- **Do** your homework.
- **Tell** me the truth.

**Negative Sentences**
- **Don’t** be late.
- **Do not** leave your homework until the last minute.
- **Never** lie to me.
Exercise 1

TEACHER TALK

What would a teacher say to a class? Choose one verb from the box on the right for each sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Picture</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ex</td>
<td><img src="ex1.png" alt="Picture" /></td>
<td>Pay attention in class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><img src="ex2.png" alt="Picture" /></td>
<td>on time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><img src="ex3.png" alt="Picture" /></td>
<td>down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><img src="ex4.png" alt="Picture" /></td>
<td>your textbook to page 10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><img src="ex5.png" alt="Picture" /></td>
<td>silently.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><img src="ex6.png" alt="Picture" /></td>
<td>the answers in your notebook.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verbs:
- read
- raise
- open
- listen
- sit
- do
- repeat
- pay
- write
- arrive
- look up
# Exercise 1 cont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Picture</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="Headphones" /></td>
<td>__________________________ to this recording.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="Speech Bubble" /></td>
<td>__________________________ after me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="Student" /></td>
<td>__________________________ your hand when you have a question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="Dictionary" /></td>
<td>__________________________ the word in your dictionary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="Homework" /></td>
<td>__________________________ your homework.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Exercise 2

**DON’T DO THAT!**

Complete these negative sentences with the imperative form of the verbs in parentheses. Then say who the speaker most likely is: a teacher, a parent, or a boss.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ex</td>
<td>Don’t <strong>push</strong> your little brother.</td>
<td>a parent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>be</strong> not late for work.</td>
<td>a parent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>be</strong> not late for class.</td>
<td>a parent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>be</strong> not late for dinner.</td>
<td>a parent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>forget</strong> not to hand in your homework.</td>
<td>a boss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>move</strong> not any office furniture out of your office.</td>
<td>a boss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>eat</strong> not junk food before dinner.</td>
<td>a boss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>come</strong> not to the meeting without your report.</td>
<td>a teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>play</strong> not video games all night.</td>
<td>a teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>talk</strong> not when I’m explaining the assignment.</td>
<td>a teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>leave</strong> not your clothes on the floor.</td>
<td>a teacher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exercise 3

ROAD RULES

Look at the pictures below. Then listen to the recording. Write the letter of the imperative sentence below the matching picture.

1. ______
2. ______
3. ______

4. ______
5. ______
6. ______

7. ______
8. ______
9. ______
Exercise 4

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS

Where does your partner see himself or herself in 5, 10, 15, and 20 years? Give your partner some advice! What steps can your partner take to reach his or her goals? Use the pictures for ideas.

Example:

A: Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
B: I want to get married and move to Hawaii.
A: Sounds good! Find a kind person to marry. Get a good job because Hawaii is expensive. Follow your dreams!
B: Okay! How about you? Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
Exercise 5

BOSS TALK

Imagine that you’re the boss at a big company. Your employees are causing problems! What will you say to them? Think of a positive and negative imperative sentence to show what you mean for each situation.

Ex. Your employee always arrives late to work.
   Positive:  Get to work on time!
   Negative:  Don’t be late again!

1. Your employee always spends too much time talking to coworkers.
   Positive:  
   Negative: 

2. Your employee always uses too many office supplies (pens, paper, etc.).
   Positive:  
   Negative: 

3. Your employee always takes an extra-long lunch break.
   Positive:  
   Negative: 

4. Your employee is always on social media during the workday.
   Positive:  
   Negative: 

5. Your employee always leaves work 15 minutes early.
   Positive:  
   Negative: 

Get to work on time!
Don’t be late again!
Exercise 6

PLAN A PARTY

With a partner or a group, plan a party. What should you wear? What should you bring? What should you do while you’re there?

Plan a party in small groups. Decide what the theme is, what people should wear, what they should bring, etc. Write an invitation to your party.

Example:

We're having a Valentine's Day party!
Come at 7:00 pm.
Wear pink or red clothes.
Bring chocolate or other snacks to share.
Get ready to dance all night long!