

Grammar – Imperative Form

12 Uses of Imperative Form – Part 3

We mostly use **imperative form** to give orders, make requests, and give instructions or advice, but there are several other uses, which can be seen in the table below.

Imperative form consists of **bare infinitive** (without *to*), often at or near the beginning of a sentence, e.g. 'Bring that laptop over here'. The negative form consists of **don't + infinitive**, e.g. 'Don't bring that laptop over here'. The question form is made with **shall** or **should**, e.g. 'Shall I bring that laptop over here?' or simply by using rising intonation in the voice: 'Bring me that laptop?'

There is no **subject** in imperative form. The subject is implied: *you*. The time is **now** or **future**.

If you are **giving orders** with imperative form, your listener may find it rude or even offensive. Depending on **who** you are talking to, and your relative statuses, the tone of your Imperative Form sentence can range from friendly to offensive. For example, 'Make me a cup of tea!'

to a mate
friendly

to a colleague
acceptable

to a parent
impolite

to your boss
rude

to an elderly nun
offensive

Your **volume**, **tone of voice** and **how** you phrase the sentence will also affect how polite it sounds.

In general, imperative form as an order or request should be avoided (or you could at least add **please** before the infinitive). It may be better to rephrase the sentence using modal verbs like **can** and **could**, e.g. *NOT*: 'Pass me the remote.' *BUT*: 'Could you pass me the remote, please?'

1.	order	Come here!
2.	request	Please bring your maths book tomorrow.
3.	permission	Don't do that!
4.	warning	Be careful!
5.	instructions	Take Piece B and insert it into Piece A, like so.
6.	directions	Walk to the end of the road, then turn right.
7.	advice	Just tell Jean that you don't want to see her again.
8.	suggestion	Eat more fruit and vegetables.
9.	invitation	Pop round this evening at about eight, if you want to.
10.	recommendation	Try new and improved Rice Wheetos – give your breakfast a buzz!
11.	wish	Have fun at the party.
12.	apology	Excuse me.

a) Complete each sentence with a suitable verb. b) Label the sentences 1-12 to show the uses.

- a) S _____ down there, if you want. _____
- b) P _____ me. Are you reading that magazine? _____
- c) First, c _____ which kind of lightbulb you need, then... _____
- d) T _____ the A40. Go past Oxford, then... _____
- e) T _____ to Harry about how you're feeling, Kam. _____
- f) Please i _____ my shirt before Monday. Thanks. _____
- g) C _____ round to meet my parents tomorrow. _____
- h) P _____ my phone down immediately! _____
- i) M _____! _____
- j) M _____ your floors sparkle and shine with Super Moppit! _____
- k) H _____ a boiled egg for breakfast. _____
- l) G _____ well soon, dear! _____

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Answers may vary. Sample answers:

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| a) Sit down there, if you want. | 3. |
| b) Pardon me. Are you reading that magazine? | 12. |
| c) First, check which kind of lightbulb you need, then... | 5. |
| d) Take the A40. Go past Oxford, then... | 6. |
| e) Talk to Harry about how you're feeling, Kam. | 7. |
| f) Please iron my shirt before Monday. Thanks. | 2. |
| g) Come round to meet my parents tomorrow. | 9. |
| h) Put my phone down immediately! | 1. |
| i) Move! | 4. |
| j) Make your floors sparkle and shine with Super Moppit! | 10. |
| k) Have a boiled egg for breakfast. | 8. |
| l) Get well soon, dear! | 11. |