

## Grammar – Imperative Form

### 12 Uses of Imperative Form – Part 4

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

a) Write a sentence to match each of the uses above. b) Write the negative and question forms too.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

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*Answers may vary. Sample answer:*

- |    |                        |   |
|----|------------------------|---|
| 1. | Get me a coffee!       | + |
|    | Don't get me a coffee! | - |
|    | Get me a coffee?       | ? |