

Imperatives

English Grammar · A1

Commands and Instructions

Imperatives

Verb!	Don't ...	... please
base verb	negative	polite
<i>Open the door.</i>	<i>Don't be late.</i>	<i>Please sit down.</i>

Imperatives: reference card grid

Imperatives are used to give **commands**, provide **instructions**, or make **requests**. Start directly with the **base form of the verb**, without a subject.

Open the door, please.

Please open the door.

Sit down.

Sit down.

Negative: Add **Don't** at the beginning.

Don't be late.

Don't be late.

Key Usage Points:

- Add **please** to be more polite: Please come in.
- Also used for directions and instructions: Turn left. Mix the eggs.

Note: Do not write a subject in imperatives: ~~You open the door~~ (for a command)
→ **Open** the door.

Common Errors

- × ~~Please open door.~~ → ✓ Please open **the** door. — Articles must still be included in imperatives.
- × ~~Don't to touch it.~~ → ✓ Don't **touch** it. — Follow don't directly with the base form of the verb; do not add to.
- × ~~No talk in class!~~ → ✓ **Don't talk** in class! / No **talking**! — To prohibit an action, use don't + base form; after no, use -ing or a noun.
- × ~~You sit down!~~ → ✓ Sit down, please. — Adding you to a command sounds angry; add please for politeness, or change to Can you...?