

# Imperative: Overview

**FORM:**

**Base verb + statement**  
**Don't + base verb + statement**

**USE:**

The **Imperative** uses the base form of the verb. When making a negative imperative, “**don't**” comes before the base verb. In an imperative statement, the subject is always “you”, but we don't say it or write it.

Use the imperative to:

- Give directions and instructions.                    **Turn** right at the corner.
- Give orders or commands.                            **Don't touch** that!
- Give advice or make suggestions.                    **Relax.**
- Give warnings.    **Keep** out. Danger.
- Make requests.    Please **open** the door.

**EXAMPLES:**

*Sit down and finish your work.*  
*Have a seat.*

*For each sentence, write down the type of IMPERATIVE it is.*

1. “Please give me change for a dollar, Sir.”  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. “Don't ask your father now. He's very angry.”  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. “Don't throw your litter on the street. Pick it up!”  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. “Go straight down Oak St. and turn right at the light.”  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. “Watch out!”  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Match the sentence on the left with its appropriate answer.*

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. I don't like my roommates.        | a. Go on a diet.                         |
| 2. I have a headache                 | b. Go to the dentist.                    |
| 3. I am overweight.                  | c. Make friends with your classmates.    |
| 4. I have the hiccups.               | d. Move out.                             |
| 5. I have a toothache.               | e. Call home.                            |
| 6. I don't have any friends here.    | f. Go to bed early.                      |
| 7. I feel tired every morning.       | g. Practice speaking to native speakers. |
| 8. I miss my family.                 | h. Hold your breath for two minutes.     |
| 9. I worry too much.                 | i. Take it easy.                         |
| 10. I can't speak English very well. | j. Take some aspirin.                    |

*Fill in each blank with an AFFIRMATIVE or NEGATIVE IMPERATIVE using the following words.*

<i>hang</i>	<i>pick</i>	<i>speak</i>	<i>listen</i>	<i>wait</i>	<i>give</i>
<i>dial</i>	<i>insert</i>	<i>compose</i>	<i>leave</i>	<i>state</i>	<i>indicate</i>

- \_\_\_\_\_ up the receiver.
- \_\_\_\_\_ for a dial tone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ "O" for operator assistance.
- \_\_\_\_\_ the number immediately.
- \_\_\_\_\_ the country you wish to call.
- \_\_\_\_\_ the number to the operator.
- \_\_\_\_\_ how you wish to pay for the call.
- \_\_\_\_\_ the exact amount of coins into the slots.
- \_\_\_\_\_ for the connection.
- \_\_\_\_\_ to your party
- \_\_\_\_\_ up the receiver when the call is over.



*Fill in the blanks with these words.*

**TURN ON**  
**FRY**

**MIX**  
**CUT**

**ADD**  
**POUR**

**CRACK**  
**TAKE**

**VEGETABLE OMELETTE**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ the eggs into a bowl.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ the cheese and vegetables into small pieces.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ some salt and pepper.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ everything together very well.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ the stove and put some oil in the pan.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ the mixture into the pan.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ it for ten minutes.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ it out of the pan carefully.

Don't forget to serve it with a fresh salad.

*Use these verbs to complete the sentences.*

**PASS**

**SWITCH**

**SAY**

**TOUCH**

**LOOK**

**OPEN**

**TAKE**

**LEAVE**

1. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ that to me again, please.
2. "You must not \_\_\_\_\_ the house yet," said his mother.
3. "\_\_\_\_\_ off your shirt, please," said the doctor.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ the light off, please.
5. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ that machine; it's dangerous.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ me the pepper, please.
7. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ the door; the train is still moving.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ in the mirror before you drive off.