

Activity Type

Reading and writing activity

Language Focus

Imperatives

Aim

To learn and practice imperatives.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

This informative worksheet helps students to learn and practice imperatives.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

Read through the grammar box called 'About imperatives' with the class.

Students then write 'I' (for imperative) next to the sentences that contain imperatives.

Afterwards, go over the answers with the class before continuing.

Exercise A - Answer key

1, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 10 have imperatives.
2, 3, 5, and 9 don't have imperatives.

Students then rewrite the unmarked sentences from Exercise A as imperatives.

Exercise B - Answer key

2. Follow the instructions exactly.
3. Always look both ways before you cross the road.
5. Please pick me up at 7 o'clock this evening.
9. Don't cut down that tree!

Students then move on to do a gap fill exercise where they complete imperatives with words from a box and then underline the imperatives in each sentence.

Exercise C - Answer key

1. Be **quiet** 7. **After** that, turn / **Remember** to / plug
2. **turn** / **Continue** 8. **Look** out / Don't **cross**
3. **Always** wear 9. Please don't **wake**
4. **Don't** come 10. **Never** do
5. **Please** take 11. **First**, boil / **Then**, put
6. Don't **be late** 12. Don't **smoke**

In the last exercise, students circle the correct form of the verbs in bold and then underline the imperatives.

Exercise D - Answer key (imperatives are underlined)

1. put / collects 4. want / walk / rained
2. bring / run / feel 5. flying / hurry / get / waiting
3. remember / take / closes

About imperatives

Imperatives tell people what to do and what not to do. Instructions are often in imperatives. If they are used at the wrong time, imperatives can sound too direct or rude.

Imperatives do not have a subject in them. The subject is the person that the speaker says the sentence to.

Verbs in imperatives are in their base form. This means that they have no *-s*, *-ed*, or *-ing* form. For *am*, *are*, and *is*, the base verb is *be*.

Negative imperatives have *don't* or *do not* before the verb.

Imperatives can also have words or phrases such as *always*, *never*, *please*, *first*, *after that*, and *remember to* in them.

Here are some examples of imperatives:

Close the door.

Please close the door.

Don't close the door.

Always close the door after you leave.



A. Write I (for imperative) next to the sentences that contain imperatives.

- 1. Stir the milk and egg into the cake mixture.
- 2. You need to follow the instructions exactly.
- 3. I want you to always look both ways before you cross the road.
- 4. Be careful with that box. It's very heavy.
- 5. Can you please pick me up at 7 o'clock this evening?
- 6. Pass the ketchup, please.
- 7. Please don't go yet.
- 8. Don't forget to charge your phone before you leave.
- 9. I dont want you to cut down that tree.
- 10. Stop fighting!



B. Rewrite the unmarked sentences above as imperatives.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

C. Fill in the gaps with the words from the box. Then, underline the imperatives.

after	always	be	continue	cross	don't	first	late	look
never	please	quiet	remember	smoke	then	turn	wake	

1. Be! This is a library. People are studying.
2. When you get to the corner, right. until you see the park on your left.
3. wear a helmet when you ride your bike, even just for short distances.
4. come with us unless you really want to.
5. Thank you for coming. take a seat.
6. The bus leaves on time every day. Don't
7. that, turn it on to see if it works. to plug it in first.
8. out! A car is coming! Don't the road now!
9. Where's mum? She's taking a nap. Please don't her up.
10. I can't believe you took some money from my purse. do that again!
11., boil some water., put coffee into a cup.
12. If you want to smoke, go outside. Don't in your room!



D. Circle the correct verb forms. Note that only some of the verbs are imperatives. Then, underline the imperatives in each sentence.

1. Please **put, puts, putting** your used paper in the recycling bin. The cleaning person **collect / collects / collecting / collected** it every day.
2. **Bring / Brings / Bringing / Brought** me a glass of water. I have just **ran / run / running** five kilometers, and I **feel / feels / feeling / felt** so dehydrated.
3. Please remember to **take / takes / taking / took** all your books with you before the school **close / closes / closing / closed**.
4. If you **want / wants / wanting / wanted** to keep your shoes dry, don't **walk / walks / walking / walked** on the grass. It **rain / rains / raining / rained** hard here last night.
5. Are you **fly / flies / flying / flew** on the next flight? Please **hurry / hurries / hurrying / hurried** to **get / gets / getting / got** to the airport terminal in time! Your brother is **wait / waits / waiting / waited** for you there.