

## Activity Type

Grammar Exercises: labelling, writing and rewriting sentences, gap-fill, identifying

## Focus

Imperatives

## Aim

To practice using affirmative and negative imperatives for instructions, requests, warnings and orders.

## Preparation

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

## Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

## Time

30 minutes

## Introduction

This imperatives worksheet helps students to learn and practice affirmative and negative imperatives for instructions, requests, warnings, and orders.

## Procedure

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

First, students read through the introduction to imperatives and then write 'I' (for imperative) next to the sentences that contain imperatives.

Exercise A - Answer key

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

Next, students rewrite the unmarked sentences from Exercise A as imperatives.

Exercise B - Answer key (order may vary)

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

After that, students complete imperatives with words from a box and then underline the imperatives in each sentence.

Exercise C - Answer key

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. quiet           | 7. After / Remember |
| 2. turn / Continue | 8. Look / cross     |
| 3. Always          | 9. wake             |
| 4. Don't           | 10. Never           |
| 5. Please          | 11. First / Then    |
| 6. be late         | 12. smoke           |

Finally, students read each situation and use the verb in brackets to write an appropriate imperative.

Exercise D - Answer key

1. Be quiet. / Please be quiet.
2. Close the door. / Please close the door.
3. Don't run.
4. Put your phone away. / Please put your phone away.
5. Turn off the lights. / Turn the lights off.
6. Don't be late. / Please be on time.
7. Clean up the kitchen. / Clean up your mess.
8. Don't touch that. / Don't touch the pan.
9. Remember to take your keys. / Don't forget your keys.
10. Don't look at the sun.

## Introduction to 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 contain words or phrases such as always, never, please, first, after that, and remember to.

Examples:

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. Mix the milk and egg in a bowl. ....
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 salt, please. ....
7. Please don't go yet. ....
8. Don't forget to charge your phone before you leave. ....
9. I don't want you to cut down that tree. ....
10. Stop fighting! ....



### B. Rewrite the unmarked sentences above as imperatives.

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

**C. Complete the imperatives with the words from the box and then underline the imperatives in each sentence.**

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. .... check your answers before you hand in your exam papers.
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 rest. 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. Read each situation. Then, use the verb in brackets to write an appropriate imperative. Add 'please' and use 'don't' to make negative imperatives where appropriate.**

1. The classroom is very noisy. (be) .....
2. The door is open and it's cold. (close) .....
3. You see a child running near the pool. (run) .....
4. Your sister is using her phone during dinner. (put) .....
5. The lights are still on when you leave the room. (turn) .....
6. A student arrives late almost every day. (be) .....
7. Your brother left a mess in the kitchen. (clean up) .....
8. Your friend is reaching toward a hot pan. (touch) .....
9. Your partner often forgets the house keys. (remember) .....
10. A child is watching the sun directly. (look) .....