



THE IMPERATIVE MOOD

Eighteenth lesson – Dix-huitième leçon

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1. DEFINITION

- The imperative mood (**le mode impératif**) is used to express **commands**: making a request, giving an order, expressing a desire, offering advice, giving a recommendation.



2. USES

2.1 Informal & formal commands

- To make an informal command, use the familiar **tu** form of the verb:

- *Entre!*

Come in!



2. USES

- To make a formal command, use the polite form **vous** (one or more persons) form of the verb:

- *Entrez!*

Come in!



2. USES

2.2. The subject pronoun is not used with the imperative mood

○ *Entrer* (to enter)

○ *Entre!* *Enter!* (talking to « you » informally)

○ *Entrez!* *Enter!* (talking to « you » formally – or to more persons – formally.)



2. USES

- **Except with pronominal verbs:**

- *Se lever (to get up)*

- *Levons-nous!*

Let's (us) get up!

- *Ne nous levons pas!*

Let's not get up!

- In both the above sentences the use of the subject pronoun is compulsory.



3. REGULAR FORMS

There are only **three** grammatical **persons** that can be conjugated in the **imperative**: **tu**, **nous**, and **vous**, and their conjugations are quite simple.

- **Entre!**
- **Entrons!**
- **Entrez!**



3. REGULAR FORMS

i) **-ir and -re verbs**

- In regular and most irregular **-ir** and **-re** verbs the forms of the imperative are the same as the corresponding persons in the **indicative** **present tense**.



3. REGULAR FORMS

- Example:

- Tu **finis** ton travail. → **Finis** ton travail!
- You finish your work. → Finish your work!



3. REGULAR FORMS

ii) Verbs like **ouvrir** and **souffrir** are conjugated like **-er** verbs, thus, in the indicative the **tu** form ends in **-es**.

- **Nous** and **vous** of the imperative are the same as the indicative form.



3. REGULAR FORMS

- For example when conjugating **manger** in the imperative mood, the **tu** form drops the final **-s**.
 - Tu **manges** vite. → **Mange** vite!
 - You eat quickly. → Eat quickly!



3.1 OVERVIEW OF REGULAR IMPERATIVE PATTERNS

	Parler (<i>to speak</i>)	Finir (<i>to finish</i>)	Attendre (<i>to wait</i>)
Tu	parle	finis	attends
Nous	parlons	finissons	attendons
Vous	parlez	finissez	attendez

4. FORMS : IRREGULAR VERBS

There are **four verbs** with **irregular forms** in the imperative mood.

- Avoir to have
- Être to be
- Savoir to know/to be familiar with
- Vouloir to want



4.1 OVERVIEW OF IRREGULAR FORMS

	Avoir <i>(to have)</i>	Être <i>(to be)</i>	Savoir <i>(to know)</i>	Vouloir <i>(to want)</i>
Tu	aie	sois	sache	veuille
Nous	ayons	soyons	sachons	voulons
Vous	Ayez	soyez	sachez	veuillez



Examples:

- **Sois** courageux!
- **Ayons** du courage!

Be brave!

Let's be brave!



5. IMPERATIVE NEGATIVE OF VERBS

To form a **negative imperative** place **ne** before the verb and **pas** (or another adverb, e.g. *jamais*, *plus*, *encore*) after it.

- **Ne parle pas!** Don't speak
- **N'ayez jamais peur!** Never be afraid!



6. IMPERATIVE OF PRONOMINAL VERBS

6.1 In the **affirmative** imperative the reflexive subject pronoun **te** changes to **toi** and is linked by a **hyphen** to the verbal form. See the following example:

○ Present tense: **Tu te lèves.**

You are getting up.

○ Imperative mood: **Lève-toi!**

Get up!



6. IMPERATIVE OF PRONOMINAL VERBS

6.2 In the **negative** imperative sentences however the reflexive subject pronoun **te** remains **te** and must be placed **before verbal form**.

- Present tense: **Tu ne te lèves pas?**
Aren't you getting up?
- Imperative mood: **Ne te lève pas!**
Don't get up!



7. PARTICULARITIES

Using the pronouns **y** or **en**

- Note that when a **tu command** is followed by the pronouns **y** or **en**, the **final -s** is kept in order to aid pronunciation.

- **Vas-y!**

Go (away)!

- **Parles-en!**

Talk about it!



C'est tout pour aujourd'hui!

Au revoir!

Merci!

