

## Affirmative Informal (Tú) Commands

Affirmative **tú** commands are used to tell a friend, family member the same age as you or younger, classmate, child, or pet **to do something**.

### How to Form Regular Tú Commands

For regular verbs, use the **third-person singular form** of the present indicative to form an affirmative **tú** command.

#### FORMING COMMANDS WITH -AR VERBS

For verbs that end in **-ar**, add the **third-person singular ending -a** to the stem.

| Verb    | Stem   | Tú Command        | English        |
|---------|--------|-------------------|----------------|
| comprar | compr- | Compra la camisa. | Buy the shirt. |

#### FORMING COMMANDS WITH -ER AND -IR VERBS

For verbs that end in **-er** and **-ir**, add the **third-person singular ending -e** to the stem

| Verb     | Stem    | Tú Command         | English          |
|----------|---------|--------------------|------------------|
| aprender | aprend- | ¡Aprende español!  | Learn Spanish!   |
| escribir | escrib- | Escribe el ensayo. | Write the essay. |

### Forming Commands with Verbs with Stem or Spelling Changes

For verbs with **stem changes** or **spelling changes** in the present tense, the stem or spelling change also applies to the informal command form.

| Verb   | Tú Command         | English            |
|--------|--------------------|--------------------|
| cerrar | Cierra la puerta.  | Close the door.    |
| mover  | Mueve esas sillas. | Move those chairs. |

### Irregular Affirmative Tú Commands

| Verb  | Tú Command |
|-------|------------|
| ser   | sé         |
| ir    | ve         |
| tener | ten        |
| venir | ven        |
| hacer | haz        |
| decir | di         |
| poner | pon        |
| salir | sal        |

### Pronoun Placement

**Pronouns** are attached to the **end** of affirmative commands. If the command form of the verb has more than one syllable or if two pronouns are used together, a **written accent** may be added when attaching a **pronoun**.

|           |                 |         |                |
|-----------|-----------------|---------|----------------|
| Tráelo.   | Tráemelo.       | Dilo.   | Díselo.        |
| Bring it. | Bring it to me. | Say it. | Say it to her. |

### Punctuation to the Rescue!

Because informal **tú** commands take the same form as the third-person singular of the present tense, it is helpful to include **exclamation points** to indicate urgency. You can also include the name of the person you are commanding, followed by a **comma**. Without the comma, an imperative verb could be confused with a third-person singular present verb. Compare the following sentences, paying careful attention to the different punctuation.

| Spanish                   | English                | Verb Mood           |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Compra la camisa.         | She buys the shirt.    | Present indicative  |
| ¡Compra la camisa!        | Buy the shirt!         | Informal imperative |
| Alicia compra la camisa.  | Alicia buys the shirt. | Present indicative  |
| Alicia, compra la camisa. | Alicia, buy the shirt. | Informal imperative |

As you can see, punctuation can really change how a sentence is interpreted.

## Affirmative Formal (Usted/Ustedes) Commands

Formal commands are used to tell a person you don't know well, a person older than you, or a person to whom you want to show deference or respect (like a boss or teacher) **to do something**.

### How to Form Regular Affirmative Formal Commands

All **Ud.** (**usted**) and **Uds.** (**ustedes**) commands use the same form as **Ud.** and **Uds.** present subjunctive forms.



| Infinitive | Ud. Present Subjunctive | Ud. Formal Command | Uds. Present Subjunctive | Uds. Formal Command |
|------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| hablar     | hable                   | hable              | hablen                   | hablen              |
| comer      | coma                    | coma               | coman                    | coman               |
| vivir      | viva                    | viva               | vivan                    | vivan               |

### Pronoun Placement

**Pronouns** are attached to the **end** of affirmative commands. If the command form of the verb has more than one syllable, a **written accent** is added when attaching a **pronoun**.

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Tráígamelo.     | Mírenlo.    |
| Bring it to me. | Look at it. |



## Negative Formal Commands

### How to Form Regular Negative Formal Commands

Negative formal commands couldn't be easier. All you have to do is put a negative word such as **no** in front of the affirmative formal command, and you've got yourself a negative formal command.

No saquen sus libros.  
Do not take out your books.

No ponga su bolsa aquí.  
Do not put your purse here.

No vengan mañana.  
Do not come tomorrow.

No se preocupe.  
Don't worry.

### Pronoun Placement

**Pronouns** come **between** the negative word and the command form in negative formal commands.

No se levante antes de leer el artículo.  
Don't get up before you read the article.

## Negative Tú Commands

Negative **tú** commands are used to tell a friend, family member the same age as you or younger, classmate, child, or pet **not to do something**.

### How to Form Regular Negative Tú Commands

Regular informal **tú** commands use the same form as the **tú** form of the present subjunctive. Always make sure you put **no** or another negative word like **nunca** (*never*) before the verb when forming a negative informal command.

| Infinitive | Tú Form of Present Subjunctive | Negative Informal Command |
|------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| comprar    | compres                        | no compres                |
| aprender   | aprendas                       | no aprendas               |
| escribir   | escribas                       | no escribas               |

### How to Form Irregular Tú Commands

If a verb is irregular in the present subjunctive, its negative informal command is also irregular.

No **hagas** la **tarea**.  
*Don't do the homework.*

No **seas** **injusto**.  
*Don't be unfair.*

### Pronoun Placement

In negative informal commands, the pronoun goes **between** the negative word and the verb.

**Nunca les compres** dulces **a los niños**.  
*Never buy candy for the children.*

**No se los compres**.  
*Don't buy them for them.*

## Indirect Commands

Indirect commands are often used for giving commands **through a third party or to an unspecified recipient**. You'll see them used in signs, instructions, and recipes. There are two kinds of indirect commands: **que** commands and infinitive commands.

### How to Form Que Commands

- que** + present subjunctive

**Que pase**.  
*Let him in.*

**Que me llamen**.  
*Have them call me.*

**Que tenga un buen día**.  
*Have a good day.*

**Que no vea** mi madre.  
*Don't let my mother see.*

**Que venga** el cliente.  
*Have the client come in.*

### How to Form Infinitive Commands

- To form an affirmative infinitive command, simply use the infinitive. Don't conjugate anything!
- To form a negative infinitive command, simply use the word **no** and the infinitive. Once again, don't conjugate anything!

**No pisar** el césped.  
*No walking on the grass.*

**Mezclar los ingredientes** en un tazón.  
*Mix the ingredients in a bowl.*

**No fumar**.  
*No smoking.*

**Ver las notas** abajo.  
*See the notes below.*

## Affirmative Nosotros Commands

**Nosotros** commands are used by a speaker to **suggest an action be (or not be) performed** by a group of people they belong to.

- There are two types of nosotros commands in Spanish:
- subjunctive** form commands
  - vamos a + infinitive** commands

### How to Form Subjunctive Commands

To form **nosotros** commands with the subjunctive, simply use the **nosotros** form of the present subjunctive.

**Comamos aquí**.  
*Let's eat here.*

**Trabajemos juntos**.  
*Let's work together.*

### Pronoun Placement Tips

- Drop the final **-s** from the verb.
- Attach the **pronoun** to the **end** of the subjunctive command form.
- Write an **accent** on the second-to-last syllable of the **original** verb form.

| Formula                  | Spanish                  | English                       |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Sentemos + nos</b>    | <b>Sentémonos aquí</b> . | <i>Let's sit here.</i>        |
| <b>Hagamos + se + la</b> | <b>Hagámosela</b> .      | <i>Let's make it for her.</i> |
| <b>Vamos + nos</b>       | <b>¡Vámonos!</b>         | <i>Let's go!</i>              |

### How to Form Vamos a + Infinitive Commands

To make this common command form, you simply use the phrase **vamos a** plus any infinitive verb.

**Vamos a relajarnos**.  
*Let's relax.*

**¡Vamos a divertirnos!**  
*Let's have some fun!*

### Pronoun Placement

Simply attach the **pronoun** to the **end** of the infinitive form.

**Vamos a sentarnos aquí**.  
*Let's sit here.*

**Vamos a dormirnos**.  
*Let's go to sleep.*

## Negative Nosotros Commands

### How to Form Negative Nosotros Commands

To form negative **nosotros** commands, put **no** or another negative word before the affirmative subjunctive form command.

**No nademos**.  
*Let's not swim.*

**No salgamos**.  
*Let's not leave.*

### Pronoun Placement

This one's easy! The reflexive, direct object, or indirect object **pronoun** comes **between** the negative word and the verb. That's it!

**No lo comamos**.  
*Let's not eat it.*

**No se los demos**.  
*Let's not give it to them.*