

The imperative form of verbs

The **imperative** is used to give commands and orders. The form of the verb used for the imperative is the **base form** of the main verb, which is used without a subject.

- *Walk to the corner, turn right, and cross the road.*
- *Open your mouth and say 'Aaaah'.*

Although the main feature of sentences in the imperative is that they have no **grammatical** subject, they do have an **understood** subject, 'you'.

The basic form of the imperative remains the same whether it is addressed to one or more people.

- *Come on, Mary; I'm waiting.*
- *Come on, girls; you're late.*

The word order of a sentence in the imperative is: **verb + object** (if needed). The negative imperative is made with *do + not* or *don't*.

- *Don't lose that key.*
- *Do not come back without it!*

The uses of the imperative are as follows:

- to give an order.
 - *Go away.*
 - *Stop that.*
 - *Keep quiet.*
- to give instructions.
 - *Don't use this spray near a naked flame.*
 - *Apply the glue thinly and leave it for ten minutes.*
- to give advice or warnings.
 - *Don't forget to take your passport with you.*
 - *Be careful!*
 - *Don't go on the ice.*
- to make an offer or an invitation.
 - *Have a piece of cake.*
 - *Come round and see me some time.*