WHAT ARE IMPERATIVES?

Imperative sentences are used to express commands/orders or requests and also to give instructions or some advice. Imperative sentences do not require a subject. Furthermore, remember that the verb used in an imperative sentence should always be in the simple present tense. Imperative sentences end with a full stop or an exclamation mark.

A positive imperative sentence asks one to do something.

For example:

- Close the door.
- Call me when you get back.
- Wash the plates before you use them.

Making a request

- Please help me with this.
- Please pass the salt and pepper.
- Please reserve a seat for me.

IMPERATIVE

Definition:

Imperatives are verbs used to give orders, commands, warning or instructions, and (if you use "please") to make a request. It is one of the three moods of an English verb (indicative, imperative and subjunctive).

For example:
• Give me that tape, please.

To make the imperative, use the infinitive of the verb without "to" For example:

- Come here!
- Sit down!

To make a negative imperative, put "do not" or "don't" before the verb: For example:

- Don't go!
- Do not walk on the grass.

You can also use "let's" before the verb if you are including yourself in the imperative. The negative of "let's" is "let's not".

For example:

- Let's stop now.
- Let's have some lunch.
- Let's not argue.
- Let's not tell her about it.

Orders

Adults do not usually give each other orders, unless they are in a position of authority. However, adults can give orders to children and to animals. The intonation of an order is important: each word is stressed, and the tone falls at the end of the sentence:

For example:

• Sit down now!
* "Sit", "down" and "now" are all stressed, and the tone falls on "now".

References:

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