

# Imperative

When you want to give instructions or directions, you can use the imperative:

INSTRUCTION: **Mix** the ingredients together.

DIRECTION: **Turn** right at the corner.

Imperatives are used for other purposes as well:

REQUEST: **Close** the window, please.

WARNING: **Watch** out!

INVITATION: **Come** over to our house tonight.

WISH: **Have** a nice time.

Using the verb in the imperative construction is easy because there are no endings. Just use the base form (the form found in the dictionary).

Because imperatives are directed toward another person or other persons, the subject *you* is understood; that is, it is not mentioned except for emphasis.

## exercise

## 16-1

Choose a verb from the list to complete the imperative sentences.

answer	bake	be	call	drive
finish	have	meet	open	turn

1. Please \_\_\_\_\_ the telephone.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ a nice weekend.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ the door, please.
4. Please \_\_\_\_\_ quiet.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ your work by Friday.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ an ambulance!
7. \_\_\_\_\_ the cookies for fifteen minutes.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ me in the hotel lobby.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ left at the corner.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ safely.

### **Forming Negatives**

To form a negative imperative, place the auxiliary verb *do* and the word *not* before the base form of the verb.

do not go

### **Forming Contractions: *Don't***

In informal or conversational situations, use a contraction.

don't go

**exercise**

**16-2**

Complete the following sentences using the negative form of the verb provided. Then rewrite the sentence using a contraction.

EXAMPLE: walk

*Do not walk on the grass.*

*Don't walk on the grass.*

1. Be

\_\_\_\_\_ late!

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2. Run

\_\_\_\_\_ on the deck of the pool.

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3. Forget

\_\_\_\_\_ your homework.

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4. Lie

\_\_\_\_\_ to me.

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5. Shout

\_\_\_\_\_ at us.

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6. Drink

\_\_\_\_\_ the water.

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7. Start

\_\_\_\_\_ the car yet.

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8. Blame

\_\_\_\_\_ me.

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9. Boil

\_\_\_\_\_ the water too long.

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10. Break

\_\_\_\_\_ anything.

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### **Forming Contractions: *Let's***

The contraction *let's* (for *let us*) is often used to make suggestions.

**Let's** go to the movies.

**Let's not** wait any longer.

The uncontracted form is used only in very formal situations—religious ceremonies, for example.

**Let us** join together in prayer.

## exercise

## 16-3

Use *let's* or *let's not* to complete the following sentences. Use the verb provided.

1. make

\_\_\_\_\_ something easy for dinner.

2. forget, not

\_\_\_\_\_ the tickets.

3. stay, not

\_\_\_\_\_ at the party very late.

4. call

\_\_\_\_\_ Anna and Charlie.

5. celebrate

\_\_\_\_\_ tonight.