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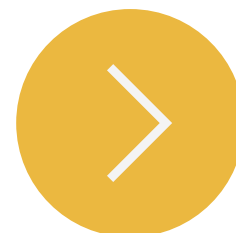
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VERBS L7 – THE IMPERATIVE

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THE USE OF THE IMPERATIVE

We use the imperative for demands and commands.

Someone is personally talking to one or more people.

The imperative only exists in the "you" forms: du, ihr and the polite Sie.

Examples:

- „**Geh** jetzt ins Bett!" (Du – Form)
- „**Geht** bitte einkaufen!" (Ihr – Form)
- „**Gehen Sie** nach Hause!" (Sie – Form)

CONSTRUCTION

Polite Form:

In the polite form, we construct the imperative with **infinitive + Sie**.

- „**Gehen Sie** nach Hause!"

Plural "ihr":

In the plural form, we use the conjugated present tense of the verb (2nd person plural)

without the pronoun.

- „**Geht** (ihr) nach Hause!"

Singular "du":

In the singular form, we use the conjugated form (2nd person singular) **without the ending and drop the pronoun.**

- „**Geh**(st) (du) nach Hause!"

IMPERATIVE CONSTRUCTION OF SEPARABLE VERBS

Separable verbs are also separated in the imperative form.

The prefix goes to the end of the sentence.

- „**Kommen** Sie bitte **mit**!" – mitkommen
- „**Räumt** euer Zimmer **auf**!" – aufräumen
- „**Hol** deine Mutter **ab**!" – abholen

IRREGULARITIES

The **vowel change** in strong verbs **from "e" to "i/ie"** is also done in the imperative form.

The vowel change **from "a" to "ä"** is not.

- „**Hilf** deinem Bruder!" ("du hilfst")
- „**Fahr** langsamer!" ("du fährst")

Only in the du-form!

To sound more polite or speak more formally, we can add an "e" to the end of the verb.

- „Geh**(e)** nach Hause."

If the verb stem ends in "-d" / "-t" or "-m" / "-n", we **MUST** add an "e" to the end.

- „**Warte** noch 5 Minuten!"

Only in the du-form!

EXCEPTIONS

There are almost no irregular verbs in the imperative form. These are the only ones:

Infinitive	du	ihr	Sie
sein	Sei ruhig!	Seid ruhig!	Seien Sie ruhig!
haben	Hab keine Angst!	Habt keine Angst!	Haben Sie keine Angst!
werden	Werde besser!	Werdet besser!	Werden Sie besser!

WORD ORDER

The imperative form is always in position 1.

There is only one subject in the polite form ("Sie").

Position 1	
Geh	sofort nach Hause!
Geht	sofort nach Hause!
Gehen	Sie sofort nach Hause!

IMPERATIVE OF SEPARABLE VERBS

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**ATTENTION**

The imperative is always very rude and unkind when spoken quickly and loudly.

The words "bitte" or "bitte mal" make the sentence sound more polite and friendlier.

„**Geh** bitte mal in den Supermarkt.“

„**Hol** mich bitte am Bahnhof **ab**.“

If you aren't mad at someone, you should always use "bitte" together with the imperative form. Without using "bitte", people will perceive it as rude and unkind.

If you want to express yourself even more politely, you should use the Konjunktiv 2 form:

- „**Würdest** du bitte mal in den Supermarkt **gehen**?“
- „**Würdest** du mich bitte am Bahnhof **abholen**?“

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