

Affirmative *tú* commands

In the direction lines of many activities, you have already seen many affirmative commands.

- **Habla** con otra persona.
- **Lee** las frases.
- **Escribe** la palabra apropiada.

When you tell friends, family members, or young people to do something, you use an affirmative *tú* command. To give these commands, use the same present-tense forms that you use for *Ud.*, *él*, *ella*.

INFINITIVE	UD./ÉL/ELLA	AFFIRMATIVE TÚ
hablar	habla	¡Habla!
leer	lee	¡Lee!
escribir	escribe	¡Escribe!

Irregular affirmative *tú* commands

To give someone an affirmative *tú* command, use the *Ud./él/ella* form of the verb.

- Elena, ¡**maneja** con cuidado!

Some verbs have irregular affirmative *tú* commands. To form many of these commands, take the *yo* form of the present tense and drop the *-go*:

INFINITIVE	YO FORM	AFFIRMATIVE TÚ
poner	pongo	¡ Pon!
tener	tengo	¡ Ten!
decir	digo	¡ Di!
salir	salgo	¡ Sal!
venir	vengo	¡ Ven!
mantener	mantengo	¡ Mantén!

¿Cómo se va a la carretera? —**Sal** de aquí y sigue derecho hasta el tercer semáforo.

Hacer, *ser*, and *ir* have irregular *tú* command forms that must be memorized.

hacer	haz
ser	sé
ir	ve

If you use a direct object pronoun with an affirmative command, attach the pronoun to the command. When a pronoun is added to a command of two or more syllables, a written accent mark is needed over the stressed vowel.

Josefina, ¡**hazlo** ahora mismo!

Martín, **ayúdame**.

Negative *tú* commands

To tell someone what *not* to do, use a negative command. To form negative *tú* commands, drop the -o of the present-tense *yo* form and add:

- -es for -ar verbs. usar **uso:** **No uses** el microondas.
- -as for -er and -ir verbs. encender **enciendo:** **No enciendas** el horno.
añadir **añado:** **No añadas** demasiada sal.
poner **pongo:** **No pongas** los camarones en la sartén

Verbs ending in -car, -gar, or -zar have spelling changes: *c* changes to *qu*, *g* changes to *gu*, and *z* changes to *c*.

- car picar **pico:** **No piques** los tomates.
- gar pagar **pago:** **No pagues** demasiado.
- zar empezar **empiezo:** **No empieces** a cocinar ahora.

These verbs have irregular negative *tú* commands:

dar	no des	ir	no vayas
estar	no estés	ser	no seas

Remember that pronouns are attached to affirmative commands. If the pronoun is added to a command form that has two or more syllables, write an accent mark on the syllable stressed in the present tense.

— ¿Pico las cebollas? —Sí, pícalas.

With negative commands, pronouns always go right before the conjugated verb.

—¿Pico los tomates también? —No, **no los** piques.

Usted and Ustedes commands

You already know how to give negative *tú* commands.

• **No prepares** los frijoles todavía. • **No enciendas** la fogata. • **No salgas** de este sendero.

• To give an affirmative or negative command in the *Ud.* or *Uds.* form, use the present-tense *yo* form as the stem just as you did for negative *tú* commands.

• *-e* or *-en* for *-ar* verbs. cortar **corto:** Señor, **corte** las chuletas de cerdo.
 probar **pruebo:** Señores, **prueben** la carne asada

• *-a* or *-an* for *-er* and *-ir* verbs. perder **pierdo:** **No pierdan** Uds. los fósforos.
 servir **sirvo:** Señorita, **sirva** la ensalada.

The same rules you know for *tú* commands regarding pronouns apply to *Ud.* and *Uds.* commands as well. Attach pronouns to affirmative commands.

—¿Dónde ponemos la leña? —Póngan**la** en un lugar seco.

With negative commands, pronouns go right before the verb.

—¿Encendemos la fogata ahora? —No, no **la enciendan** todavía.

Affirmative and negative *Ud.* and *Uds.* commands have the same spelling changes and irregular forms as negative *tú* commands.

Negative <i>tú</i> command	<i>Ud.</i> command	<i>Uds.</i> command
no busques	(no) busque	(no) busquen
no juegues	(no) juegue	(no) jueguen
no empieces	(no) empiece	(no) empiecen
no estés	(no) esté	(no) estén
no des	(no) dé	(no) den
no vayas	(no) vaya	(no) vayan
no seas	(no) sea	(no) sean