

Informal commands

In English Commands tell someone to do or not to do something. **Affirmative commands** are formed by using the infinitive form of the verb without the word **to**. **Negative commands** are formed by placing the word(s) **don't** or **do not** before the infinitive. There are no irregular commands in English. Pronouns are always placed after the infinitive of the verb.

Grab your plates!

Please **keep** talking!

Behave yourselves!

Do not drop **them**!

Don't stop for my sake!

Don't get **us** in trouble.

A Circle the verbs that express commands. Then check the appropriate column to tell whether the command is affirmative or negative.

1. Please (do) as you're told.
2. Don't hesitate to ask for help.
3. Look, an avalanche! Run for your life!
4. Don't stop thinking about your future.
5. Send me a postcard when you get to Rome.
6. Stand clear of the doors.
7. Don't give up so easily!

AFFIRMATIVE **NEGATIVE**

☒	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐

In Spanish Informal commands are used to tell a friend or relative (someone you address as **tú**) to do or not to do something. **Affirmative** commands are formed by using the **tú** form of the present tense and dropping the final **-s**. Object pronouns are attached at the end.

empiezas → **empieza**

pides → **pide**

Empieza a estudiar.

Pídele un cuaderno a Quique.

Negative commands use the word **no** followed by the verb form. They are formed by dropping the final **-o** of the **yo** form, and adding **-es** for **-ar** verbs, and **-as** for **-er** and **-ir** verbs. **Object pronouns** go between **no** and the verb.

hago → **hagas**

pienso → **pienses**

Haz eso, pero **no lo** **hagas** todavía.

No pienses mucho en el futuro.

Some verbs have **irregular** affirmative or negative informal command forms.

tener → **ten**

venir → **ven**

poner → **pon**

hacer → **haz**

salir → **sal**

ir → **ve**

ser → **sé**

decir → **di**

no **vayas**

no **seas**

no **digas**

Negative commands of verbs ending in **-car**, **-zar** and **-gar** have spelling changes:

sacar → **saques**

pagar → **no pagues**

empezar → **no empieces**

INFORMAL COMMANDS

B Complete each command with the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

1. No llegues a casa demasiado tarde. (llegar)
2. _____ la mesa, porque tenemos que comer. (poner)
3. No _____ al concierto sin tu hermana. (ir)
4. Jorgito, no _____ malo si quieres ir al parque. (ser)
5. _____ el baño, que está muy sucio (*dirty*). (limpiar)
6. No _____ la basura hasta mañana. (sacar)
7. No me _____ tantos favores. (pedir)
8. Hija, _____ de casa si estás aburrida. (salir)

C You are giving advice on how to run a home. Use the cues to tell people what to do and not to do, then to tell them how often to do or not to do it.

1. pagar las cuentas (todos los meses)
Paga las cuentas. Págalas todos los meses.

2. hacer las camas (todos los días)

3. no acostarse tarde (durante la semana)

4. comer fruta (siempre de postre)

5. limpiar el baño (todas las semanas)

6. no tomar alcohol (nunca)

D 1. Change the affirmative commands to negatives and vice versa.

- a. Llámalo ya. No lo llames todavía.
- b. No lo traigas todavía. _____
- c. Acuéstate ya. _____
- d. No te olvides del paraguas. _____

2. What changes did you have to make in the position of the object pronouns?

