

Commands

Familiar Commands

Regular Verbs

Affirmative

(uses "él" form present tense)

mira

corre

duerme

canta

Negative

(uses "tú" form of present subjunctive)

no mires

no corras

no duermas

no cantes

Irregular Verbs (only in the affirmative)

Decir = di (no digas)

Hacer = haz (no hagas)

Ir = ve (no vayas)

Poner = pon (no pongas)

Salir = sal (no salgas)

Ser = sé (no seas)

Tener = ten (no tengas)

Venir = ven (no vengas)

Formal Commands

Formal commands are always expressed with present subjunctive forms in both affirmative and negative. They are generally followed by "Ud." (singular) or "Uds." (plural):

(No) Hable Ud. Hablen Uds. = (Don't) speak

(No) Diga Ud. Digan Uds. = (Don't) say or tell

(No) Vaya Ud. Vayan = (Don't) go

There are two ways of expressing "Let's" in Spanish. One is with "vamos a + infinitive" and the other is with the nosotros present subjunctive form:

Vamos a comer. Comamos. = Let's eat.

Vamos a esperar. Esperemos. = Let's wait.

Although they mean virtually the same thing, the nosotros command is more forceful and has no implication of "going to" as the other version does.

Pronoun Placement

Since so many commands involve the use of pronouns, a simple rule is necessary to remember the correct placement of pronouns in relation to the verbs they accompany:

All pronouns (direct object, indirect object, and reflexive) are attached to affirmative commands. In negative commands, the pronoun precedes the verb:

Ayúdeme, por favor.

No me ayude, por favor.

Tráiganlo aquí.

No lo traigan aquí.

Levántate.

No te levantes.

Díme el secreto.

No me digas el secreto.