

# Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Researches

University of Diyala

College of Education for Humanities Sciences

Department of English



## **Imperatives**

By

Yasmine Ali Hassan

&

**Hussein Qassem Hussein** 

Supervised by

Asst. Inst. Reham Abdul Kareem Muhammed

1443 H. D 2022 A.D.

## **Dedication**

To the heroic martyrs of Al- Tahreer, to my dear father, who struggled and labored for us and For letting us reach this place, to my beloved mother, may God preserves her and take care of her, who worked hard and stayed up for this day, to my dear sister (Umm Yazan), who supported me all the time.

To my friends who shared with me the moments of the beautiful university and supported me in Every time I dedicate this humble effort to everyone who thinks and searches for advancement`

## Acknowledgment

We would like to thank the supreme power the Almighty Allah who is obviously the One has always guided us to work on the right path of life. Without His grace, this project would not become a reality.

Next to Him are our Parents, whom we are greatly in debt for bringing us up with love and encouragement to this stage. We are feeling oblige in taking the opportunity to sincerely thanks to Asst. Inst. Reham Abdul Kareem for her generous attitude and friendly behavior.

At last but not the least, we are thankful to all our friends, relatives and classmates who have been always helping and encouraging us throughout the year. We have no valuable words to express our thanks, but our hearts are still full of the favors received from every person.

## **Abstract**

an imperative indicates Semantically, the speaker's desire influence future actions. This can be accomplished by making requests, giving orders, or making suggestions. There is a 'should' inherent meaning of imperative. the For instance. an as 'You 'GoHome!' could be paraphrased should go Another element of the semantics of imperatives is that the speaker wishes to influence the actions of the addressee, and not some third party.

Using a semantic definition of imperatives, let us look at some constructions in English which havebeen regarded as imperatives in the literature. Among these are such constructions as let's imperatives, Vocatives, embedded imperatives (i.e. subjunctives), peremptory declaratives, and modals of volition.

## Table of Contents

No.	Title	Page
		no.
1.	Dedication	П
2.	Acknowledgments	III
3.	Table of contents	IV
4.	Introduction	6
5.	Definitions of imperative	7
6.	Types of imperative	8
7.	Imperative sentence	11
8.	Elements of imperative	12
9.	Functions of imperative	14
10.	Types of imperative sentence	14
11.	The imperative mode	15
12.	Politeness and imperative	17
13.	The formation of imperative in English	17
14.	Conclusion	19
15.	References	20

#### Introduction

Imperative has two distinct meanings: one of urgency, necessity, and importance and another of trying to influence other people's actions. The adjective imperative means that something is of the utmost importance or necessity. It can also mean that something is commanding. Similarly, the noun imperative means "something of the utmost importance or necessity"—something imperative. It also means "a command".

Imperative can be one of the following:

- 1) An adjective meaning "completely necessary" or "very important," but also "commanding".
- 2) A noun meaning "a necessity" or "something that is not avoidable," but also "a command".
- 3) In grammar, imperative is also one of the four main verb moods. (Ticak, 2021: 2)

## 1.1 Definitions of Imperatives

Imperative is defined as a type of construction which is the only prototype a function which is an expression. This definition makes up refers to functional criteria related to getting someone to do it something. However, as a term, 'imperative' refers to the level of linguistic form. Consequently, 'imperative' is seen here as a grammatical category, not as communicative function. Can you open the window? 'Will you open the window for me? 'Functions as a directive, but is more interrogative rather than imperative in terms of their grammatical characteristics. Especially temporarily the prototype function of imperatives is to issue directive, imperative speech acts not limited to this function. Imperative clauses but will usually function as conditional statements, not as trying to get the receiver to make an order (Irsan, 2020: 20)

Imperatives are verbs used to give orders, commands, warning or instructions, and (if you use "please") to make a request. It is one of the three moods of an English verb (indicative, imperative and subjunctive). For example;

## • Give me that tape, please

The imperative conveys commands or requests—for example, "Do your work." It is distinguished by the absence of an explicit subject, the implied subject being "you."

In English, as in many other languages, we can influence the person we are speaking to by prompting them to perform or to not perform a specific action. The most direct way of doing this is through use of the imperative, as the name of this verbal mood indicates. The imperative mood in English

is generally used to give an order, to prompt someone to do something, to give a warning or to give instructions. There are several distinguishable forms of the imperative in English: affirmative, negative, and exhortative, as well as the more cordial ways of expressing an order. Let's look at the characteristics of each of these together. (http://www.britannica.com/)

## 1.2 Types of Imperatives

## 1. Affirmative Imperatives

This is the most common and direct form of the imperative. There is only second person singular and plural. It is formed by using the infinitive of the verb without the "to"

- Hurry up or you'll miss the show!
- Switch the TV off.
- Put the flour, milk, and eggs in a bowl and whisk until smooth.

Given that this is a very direct way to give orders, it can be accompanied by other expressions such as just, please, and if you don't mind in order to soften the tone.

- Just wait for me here, please.
- Close the door, if you wouldn't mind.

## 2. Negative Imperatives

The negative form of the affirmative imperative requires the addition of the auxiliaries do + not (don't in its contracted form) to be added to the infinitive version of the verb without the "to".

#### • Don't be late!

- Do not go to work today.
- Don't keep opening the fridge.

#### 3. Exhortative Imperatives

More than an imperative, this imperative is an exhortation and only applies to the first-person plural. In some cases, it is accompanied by please. It is formed using the prefix let's + the infinitive of the verb without "to" in the affirmative form

• Let us observe a minute of silence, please.

In the negative form, the addition of the negation not is required between the prefix and the verb.

• Let's not go in, please.

When the prefix let by a personal pronoun other than us, the meaning changes to allow".

- Let me do the washing up for once.
- 4. Using the Imperatives for Suggestions

In some cases, the imperative can be used to give suggestions or to make proposals. In these cases, we have two constructions:

Let's + infinitive verb without the "to" (Exhortative Imperative)

- Let's not miss the train.
- Let's take a holiday!

Why don't we + infinitive verb without the "to"

• Why don't we go to the beach?

• Why don't you tell her the truth?

5. Imperative + Personal Pronouns

In some cases, a personal pronoun can be added to reinforce the imperative value. But, be careful to not appear impolite. This verbal form is only used for a strong and decisive order.

• Can I go home?

• No, you wait another 10 minutes.

• Don't you tell me what to do!

6. Imperative Addressed to a group of people

In some situations, we must speak to a clearly-defined group of people. In that case, we can use words like somebody, everybody, and all.

• Somebody call an ambulance. Quick!

• Everybody sit down, please.

• All rise! (used in courtrooms)

7. Imperative + Do

In some cases, the auxiliary Do can be added to give a more formal and courteous appearance to the Do come in!

• Do come and visit us next time.

• Do help yourselves to the buffet!

(https://www.abaenglish.com/en/aba-english-masterclass/the-imperative-in-english) /

#### 1.3 Imperative Sentence

Imperative sentence is part of sentence, it has connection with mood. It is revealed by the language and also used for communication and sent message to the other people, it is directed the listener did something. According to Downing the imperative consists of the base form of the verb alone, without modals, tense, or aspect. It includes expression of command, invitation, suggestion, advice and prohibition. It is important here to pay more attention to the definition given "to ask someone to did something", since there is a type of sentence which is called an asking sentence (2006: 342).

Moeliono (1992: 285) states that command sentences are generally used to order someone or more to do something we are will. Orders are stern demanding orders smooth. The command sentence consists of a command sentence in the form of a prohibition, an ordinary invitation and requests or hopes. The command sentence is in the form of prohibition, namely the sentence commands that have the meaning of prohibitions shown to others and serves to prohibit someone or more from doing something, this sentence marked with the word 'don't'. The command sentence is the form of the invitation, namely the sentence an order that aims to invite someone or more to do what we are want. A command sentence in the usual form is a command sentence that has a meaning of being told to someone or more to do something that is desired. This command sentence can be marked with the particle 'lah'. Sentence command in the form of a request that is a sentence that contains meaning orders in the form of subtle requests.

According to Joshi (2014:2), imperative sentences used to give commands (orders). Imperative sentences are also used to give Imperative sentences are also used to made a request. You should use please' (or other polite word) in the beginning or at the end of the sentence to made a request. An imperative sentence began with the base (first) form of a verb which is also called verb word. In imperative sentence, subject - you' - is understood. However, for first and third person imperative, imperative sentence began with let. You can end imperative sentence with period () or exclamation. Exclamation is used to showed direct and firm command. of **Imperative** includes expressions command, invitation, sentence suggestion, advice and prohibition. In accordance with Downing (2006: 6) the English imperative sentence can function to give a suggestion, invitation, prohibition and instruction

## **1.4 Elements of Imperative**

Imperative are verbs used to gives orders, commands, and if you use please to make a request. It is one of the three moods of an English verb (indicative, imperative and subjunctive).

#### 1. Command

According to Brown (2010), the command is given when there is power different between speaker and listener, the speaker has an authority to command the listener something. For example:

## • Out of my way!

You can also use the imperative to made request, but you should use a polite word before the verb, For example:

• Please take a seat.

(Brown, 2010: 8).

## 2. Requests

You can also use the imperative to make request, but you should use a polite word before the verb, For example:

• Please take a seat.

(ibid: 9).

## 3. Suggestion

In suggestion "let's" indicates that the speaker is making suggestion that includes himself and people he is addressing, we may not, don't, let' instead of ,let's not , for Example:

• Let's have a drink.

(Rahardi, 2005:8).

#### 4. Prohibition

The Imperative Sentences as Prohibition In prohibition, the speaker forbids the listener to do something. It is concerned with the negative imperative, for Example:

• Don't be late for school!

(ibid: 9)

## 1.5 Function of Imperative Sentence

Those statements are strengthened by the statement of Azar (2003) who states that English imperative sentence is used to give a command, to make a polite request, to give a direction, advice, prohibition and suggestion. An imperative sentence plays an important in writing as well as in speaking. It is not very command in literary, but very important in everyday conversation language. Besides this, it is commonly used in advertisement, manual, instructions and road signs. In English, positive imperative can be in various ways: giving advice, request, command, invitation, and suggestion. Negative is constructed with do not or (don'' t). As Hun (2000) said that in negative form it is always signaled by the markers do not, do not be and no imperative sentence includes expressions of command, invitation, suggestion, advice and prohibition. Based on the above definitions, the imperative is used for a number of purposes. It can be used for giving a command, invitation, advice, suggestion, request, giving a direction or instruction, and prohibition.

## **1.6 Types of Imperative Sentences**

Aarts(1982) stated that a sentence was classified in terms of the frame of linguistic use and its work in communication. This classification namely: Revelatory comprises of four sorts. sentences, declarative sentences that contain explanatory sound and meaning sentences are or said something. Interrogative sentences, interrogative general state sentences are sentences that contain address sentences in general question meaning, and ordinarily this sentence is stamped with an address mark. Basic Sentences, imperative sentences are sentences containing command

sound, and in general the meaning of commands and disallowances, and as a rule this sentence is checked with a period and a sign exciting. The sentence of exclamation, the outcry sentence may have been a sentence containing shout intensifiers, such as: how, hopefully.

## Tense forms of imperative sentence

The following patterns were word order for imperative sentence:

Simple present tense

Subject + verb 1 +complement (Maca, 2014)

## 2. The Imperative Mood

The imperative mood is a grammatical mood that forms a command or request. An example of a verb used in the imperative mood is the English phrase "Go." Such imperatives imply a second-person subject (you), but some other languages also have first- and third-person imperatives, with the meaning of "let's (do something)" or "let them (do something)" (the forms may alternatively be called co hortative and jussive). For example, (you must) wash your hands"), is used to assert the imperative mood in sentences that would be translated as "let's (let us)" in English. "Let us (you and I) go", but the "us" component goes last. (Wierzbicka, 1991: 38).

In English, the imperative is formed using the bare infinitive form of the verb. This is usually also the same as the second-person present indicative form, except in the case of the verb to be, where the imperative is be while the indicative is are. (The present subjunctive always has the same form as the imperative, although it is negated differently – the

imperative is negated using do not, as in "Don't touch me!". Occasionally do is not used: Dare not touch me!) The imperative form is understood as being in the second person (the subject pronoun you is usually omitted, although it can be included for emphasis), with no explicit indication of singular or plural. First and third person imperatives are expressed periphrastically, using a construction with the imperative of the verb let:

- Let me (Let's) see. (Internal monologue equivalent to a first person singular imperative)
- Let us (Let's) go. (equivalent to a first person plural imperative)
- Let us be heard. (Royal we in an equivalent to a first person passive imperative; also constructions like "We are to be heard")
- Let him/her/it/them run. (equivalent to a third person imperative; constructions with may are also used)
- Let him/her/it/them be counted. (Equivalent to a third person passive imperative)

Imperatives are used principally for ordering, requesting or advising the listener to do (or not to do) something: "Put down the gun!", "Pass me the sauce", "Don't go too near the tiger." They are also often used for giving instructions as to how to perform a task: "Install the file, then restart your computer". They can sometimes be seen on signs giving orders or warnings "Stop", "Give way", "Do not enter". The use of the imperative mood may be seen as impolite, inappropriate or even offensive in certain circumstances. In polite speech, orders or requests are often phrased instead as questions or statements, rather than as imperatives (Wierzbicka, 1991: 39)

- Could you come here for a moment? (More polite than "Come here!")
- It would be great if you made us a drink. (For "Make us a drink!")
- I have to ask you to stop. (For "Stop!")

(ibid: 40)

## 2.1 Politeness and Imperative

Politeness strategies (for instance, indirect speech acts) can seem more appropriate in order not to threaten a conversational partner in their needs of self-determination and territory: the partner's negative face should not appear threatened. As well as the replacement of imperatives with other sentence types, there also often exist methods of phrasing an imperative in a more polite manner, such as the addition of a word like please or a phrase like if you could. Imperatives are also used for speech acts whose function is not primarily to make an order or request, but to give an invitation, give permission, express a wish, make an apology:

- Come to the party tomorrow! (invitation)
- Eat the apple if you want. (permission)
- Have a nice trip! (wish)
- Pardon me. (apology)

When written, imperative sentences are often, but not always, terminated with an exclamation mark. (Brown& Levinson, 1978: 56-57)

## 2.3 The formation of Imperative in English

English usually omits the subject pronoun in imperative sentences:

• You work hard. (indicative)

• Work hard! (imperative; subject pronoun you omitted)

However, it is possible to include the you in imperative sentences for emphasis. English imperatives are negated using don't (as in "Don't work!") This is a case of do-support as found in indicative clauses; however in the imperative it applies even in the case of the verb be (which does not use do-support in the indicative):

- You are not late. (indicative)
- Don't be late! (imperative)

It is also possible to use do-support in affirmative imperatives, for emphasis or (sometimes) politeness: "Do be quiet!", "Do help yourself!" The subject you may be included for emphasis in negated imperatives as well, following don't: "Don't you dare do that again!" (Brown& Levinson, 1978: 57-58)

## **Conclusion**

In English, as in many other languages, we can influence the person we are speaking to by prompting them to perform or to not perform a specific action. The most direct way of doing this is through use of the imperative, as the name of this verbal mood indicates. The imperative mood in English is generally used to give an order, to prompt someone to do something, to give a warning or to give instructions.

There are several distinguishable forms of the imperative in English: affirmative, negative, and exhortative, as well as the more cordial ways of expressing an order. Let's look at the characteristics of each of these together.

#### References

Aarts, F and Aarts, J. (1982). English Syntactic Structure Function and Categories in Sentences Analysis. Oxford: Pergamon Press.

Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia (2020, February 3). grammar. Encyclopedia Britannica.

Brown C, Brown P. (2010). English grammar secrets. Landon: Macmillan Publishers.

Brown, P., and S. Levinson. "Universals in language use", in E. N. Goody (ed.), Questions and Politeness. Cambridge and London: Cambridge University Press, 1978

Downing, A, & Philip, L. (2006). English grammar: A university course (Second Edition). London: Rutledge.

## https://www.grammarly.com/blog/imperative /

Hun, C. H. (2000). The structure and interpretation of imperatives: Mood and force in universal grammar. New York: Garland.

Joshi. (2014). English Imperative Sentences Most Common Imperative Verbs. Ebook.Lulu.Com Publisher

Macca S, Daeng B. (2014). The Easiest Ways to Master English Language. Makassar: Cv Sah Media Makassar.

Moeliono. 1992. PragmatikdanPenelitianPragmatik. Yogyakarta: GrahaIlmu

MOH. Irsan, 2020 "Contrastive Analysis of Imperative Sentences in English and Banggai Language" MA. Thesis.

Ticak, Marko. 2021 "what does imperative means?"

Wierzbicka, Anna, "Cross-Cultural Pragmatics", Mouton de Gruyter, 1991. ISBN 3-11-012538-2

https://www.abaenglish.com/en/aba-english-masterclass/the-imperative-in-english