Grammar Notes

A. Introduction

Imperative verbs are common in English. They are different from other verbs because they don't need a subject!
Imperative verbs are always in the **simple present tense**.

B. Pattern

With imperative verbs, the subject is always **you**, but it is hidden.
We never say or write **you**. We only say or write the imperative verb.
The verb can be followed by a **noun object**, an **adjective**, or an **adverb**.

Possible Patterns	
Pattern	**Example**
V	Stop!
V + N	Close the door.
V + Adj	Be quiet.
V + Adv	Drive slowly.

C. Use

Imperative verbs are used to give **commands**, **warnings**, or **instructions**. For example, parents, teachers, police officers, and doctors often use imperative verbs.

Commands

- Stop!
- Pay attention.
- Do it right now.

Warnings

- Be careful!
- Watch out!
- Watch where you're going!

Instructions

- Turn off the lights.
- Open your book to page 2.
- Take these vitamins.

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Grammar Notes cont.

D. Form

Imperative verbs are very common in positive and negative sentences. Negative imperative verbs begin with **do not**, which is usually shortened to **don't**. They can also begin with the adverb **never**.

Positive Sentences

- **Be** on time.
- **Do** your homework.
- **Tell** me the truth.

Negative Sentences

- **Don't** be late.
- **Do not** leave your homework until the last minute.
- **Never** lie to me.

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Exercise 1

TEACHER TALK

What would a teacher say to a class? Choose one verb from the box on the right for each sentence.

#	Picture	Sentence
Ex		*Pay* attention in class.
1		_____ on time.
2		_____ down.
3		_____ your textbook to page 10.
4		_____ silently.
5		_____ the answers in your notebook.

Verbs:

- read
- raise
- open
- listen
- sit
- do
- repeat
- ~~pay~~
- write
- arrive
- look up

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Exercise 1 cont.

#	Picture	Sentence
6		_____ to this recording.
7		_____ after me.
8		_____ your hand when you have a question.
9		_____ the word in your dictionary.
10		_____ your homework.

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Exercise 2

DON'T DO THAT!

Complete these negative sentences with the imperative form of the verbs in parentheses. Then say who the speaker most likely is: **a teacher**, **a parent**, or **a boss**.

#	Sentence	Speaker
Ex	*Don't push* (push, not) your little brother.	*a parent*
1	_____ (be, not) late for work.	
2	_____ (be, not) late for class.	
3	_____ (be, not) late for dinner.	
4	_____ (forget, not) to hand in your homework.	
5	_____ (move, not) any office furniture out of your office.	
6	_____ (eat, not) junk food before dinner.	
7	_____ (come, not) to the meeting without your report.	
8	_____ (play, not) video games all night.	
9	_____ (talk, not) when I'm explaining the assignment.	
10	_____ (leave, not) your clothes on the floor.	

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Exercise 3

ROAD RULES

Look at the pictures below. Then listen to the recording.
Write the letter of the imperative sentence below the matching picture.



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____



7. _____



8. _____



9. _____

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Exercise 5

BOSS TALK

Imagine that you're the boss at a big company. Your employees are causing problems! What will you say to them? Think of a **positive** and **negative** imperative sentence to show what you mean for each situation.

Ex. Your employee always arrives late to work.

Positive: *Get to work on time!*

Negative: *Don't be late again!*

1. Your employee always spends too much time talking to coworkers.

   Positive: _____

   Negative: _____

2. Your employee always uses too many office supplies (pens, paper, etc.).

   Positive: _____

   Negative: _____

3. Your employee always takes an extra-long lunch break.

   Positive: _____

   Negative: _____

4. Your employee is always on social media during the workday.

   Positive: _____

   Negative: _____

5. Your employee always leaves work 15 minutes early.

   Positive: _____

   Negative: _____

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Exercise 6

PLAN A PARTY

With a partner or a group, plan a party.
What should you wear? What should you bring?
What should you do while you're there?

Plan a party in small groups. Decide what the theme is, what people should wear, what they should bring, etc.
Write an invitation to your party.

Example:

We're having a Valentine's Day party!
Come at 7:00 pm.
Wear pink or red clothes.
Bring chocolate or other snacks to share.
Get ready to dance all night long!

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Exercise 7

QUIZ

Circle the correct answer.

1. Please _____ slowly.
   a) to speak
   b) speak

2. _____ talk to strangers.
   a) Don't
   b) Not

3. _____ hiking without a water bottle.
   a) Never go
   b) Go never

4. _____ me if you need help.
   a) Call
   b) Calls

5. _____ worry! Everything will be okay.
   a) Don't be
   b) Don't

6. _____ with a partner.
   a) Working
   b) Work

7. _____ the video before you answer the questions.
   a) To watch
   b) Watch

8. _____ to turn off the lights.
   a) Don't forget
   b) Forget not

9. _____ a break. You look tired.
   a) Take
   b) Be taking

10. _____ the window.
    a) Open please
    b) Please open

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