

French Grammar Express- The imperative

The imperative is the 'verbal form' you use to prompt someone to do something, give an order or instructions.

You { **You go to school!** The imperative
 Don't do that!

We { **Let's go to school!**

Reminder!

In French:

You { **tu** → For **one person** you know well (familiar form)
 vous → For **one person** (formal form)
 → For **several people**

We { **nous**

How does the imperative work in French?

→ Present tense form without the subject pronoun

Reminder: present tense

Subject pronouns ↓	-ER Verbs Danser-to dance	-IR Verbs Finir-to finish	-RE verbs Vendre-to sell
Tu	danse e <small>Knock off the 's'</small>	finis	vends
VOUS	dansez	finissez	vendez
nous	dansons	finissons	vendons

To bear in mind!

In the **tu** form the 's' comes back before the pronouns **Y** and **EN**

Va au supermarché! → **Vas-y!**
Go to the supermarket! *Go (there)!*

Mange des fruits! → **Manges-en!**
Eat fruit! *Eat some!*

Irregular verbs in the imperative

	aller (to go)	avoir (to have)	être (to be)	savoir (to know)	vouloir (to want)
Tu	va [vah]	aie [eh]	sois [swah]	sache [sahsh]	veille [vuh-ee]
Vous	allez [ahl@]	ayez [eh-ee@]	soyez [swah-ee@]	sachez [sahsh@]	veuillez [vuh-ee@]
Nous	allons [ahlö]	ayons [eh-eeö]	soyons [swah-eeö]	sachons [sahshö]	veuilions [vuh-eeö]

The negative form:

Va au supermarché! → **Ne va pas au supermarché**
Go to the supermarket! *Don't go to the supermarket!*

Faites ça! → **Ne faites plus ça**
Do that! *Don't do that anymore!*

With reflexive verbs:

Tu **te** reposes → **Repose-toi!**
You have a rest *Have a rest!*

Vous **vous** levez → **Levez-vous!**
You get up *Get up!*

Nous **nous** calmons → **Calmons-nous!**
We calm down *Let's calm down!*

With object pronouns:

Direct object pronouns		Indirect object pronouns	
me	moi	to me	moi
you	toi	to you	toi
him, it	le	to him, it	lui
her, it	la	to her, it	lui
us	nous	to us	nous
you	vous	to you	vous
them	les	to them	leur
them	les	to them	leur