

What Are Imperative Sentences?

Imperative sentences are used to express commands/orders or requests and also to give instructions or some advice. Imperative sentences do not require a subject. Furthermore, remember that the verb used in an imperative sentence should always be in the simple present tense. Imperative sentences end with a full stop or an exclamation mark.

Definition of an Imperative Sentence

According to the Oxford Learner's Dictionary, an imperative sentence is defined as one "expressing an order" and according to the Cambridge Dictionary, an imperative sentence is "a sentence that gives a command or gives a request to do something".

Types of Imperative Sentences with Examples

Imperative sentences can be divided into two main categories according to their nature namely,

Positive imperative sentence

Negative imperative sentence

Positive Imperative Sentence

A positive imperative sentence asks one to do something.

For example:

Close the door.

Call me when you get back.

Wash the plates before you use them.

Negative Imperative Sentence

A negative imperative sentence is meant to do just the opposite. A negative imperative sentence instructs one not to do something.

For example:

Do not close the door.

Do not call me when you get back.

Do not wash the plates before you use them.

Conditional Imperative Sentences

Another type of imperative sentences is the conditional imperative sentence. These sentences include a conditional clause and are mostly in the form of complex sentences.

For example:

If you think you are going to be late, ask your brother to drop you off.

Imperative sentences can be used to do the following.

To make a request

To give a command

To lend an invitation

To give an instruction

Examples of Imperative Sentences

Given below are examples of imperative sentences that will definitely help you understand the topic better.

Making a request

Please help me with this.

Please pass the salt and pepper.

Please reserve a seat for me.

Giving a command

Don't leave the door open.

Come home before sunset.

Finish the assignment by tomorrow.

Leading an invitation

Kindly join us for lunch after the reception.

Come with me for a movie.

Let us go for a walk.

Giving an instruction

Sauté the onions until they turn golden brown.

Boil the milk for at least two to three minutes.

Stop when you see the red light.

Check Your Understanding of Imperative Sentences

Use the most appropriate verb from the list given below to form imperative sentences.

(switch off, do, come, play, stand, close, forget, fill in, turn off, carry, submit)

1. _____ the application form and _____ them before Monday.
2. _____ the door when you go out.
3. _____ the lights after use.
4. Please _____ home when you are free.
5. _____ all the documents that are required for verification.
6. _____ in the ascending order of your height.

7. _____ (negative) to carry an umbrella.
8. Let's _____.
9. _____ your homework.
10. _____ your mobile phones before the meeting starts.

The answers are given below. Check out if you got it right.

1. Fill in the applications and submit them before Monday.
2. Close the door when you go out.
3. Turn off the lights after use.
4. Please come home when you are free.
5. Carry all the documents that are required for verification.
6. Stand in the ascending order of your height.
7. Don't forget to carry an umbrella.
8. Let's play.
9. Do your homework.
10. Switch off your mobile phones before the meeting starts

Give instructions to keep your surrounding clean and green using imperative form

Steps to keep surroundings clean:

Avoid Water stagnant anywhere around the house as it can lead to the breeding of mosquitoes and flies.

Drains must be kept covered.

Don't throw the Waste here and there, disposed of properly in bins.

Label the Garbage differentiated into biodegradable and non-biodegradable before disposal.

Biodegradable waste consists of kitchen and garden waste while non-biodegradable waste consists of plastics, batteries, and medical and electronic waste.

Place dustbins in Parks and public for waste disposal.

Conduct more awareness of healthy practices through seminars, workshops, and education.