The imperative mood is used in Spanish and in English to express a command. The subjunctive mood is used to express commands in the usted and ustedes forms, in addition to other uses of the subjunctive mood.

The present subjunctive of regular verbs and many irregular verbs is normally formed as follows:

Go to the present indicative, first person singular of the verb you have in mind, drop the ending “o” and for an -ar ending type, add -e, -es, -e, -e, -e, -emos, -éis, -en, -en -enñ for an -er/-ir ending type, add -a, -as, -a, -a, -a, -amos, -áis, -an, -an, -an.

Here are other points you ought to know about the imperative.

**1. An indirect command or deep desire expressed in the third person singular or plural is in the subjunctive mood.** Notice the use of “Let” or “May” in the English translations. “*Que*” introduces this kind of command.

*¡Que lo* ***haga*** *Jorge!* ***Let*** *George* ***do*** *it!*

*¡Que Dios se lo* ***plegue****!* ***May*** *God* ***reward*** *you!*

*¡Que* ***entre*** *Roberto!* ***Let*** *Robert* ***enter****!*

*¡Que* ***salgan****!* ***Let*** *them* ***leave****!*

**2. In some indirect commands, que is omitted. Here, too, the subjunctive is used.**

***Viva*** *el presidente! Long live the president!*

**3. The verb form of the affirmative singular familiar (*tú*) is the same as the third person singular of the present indicative when expressing a command.**

***Entra*** *pronto! Come in quickly!*

*¡****Sigue*** *leyendo! Keep on reading!/Continue reading!*

**There are some exceptions, however. The following verb forms are irregular in the affirmative singular imperative (tú form only).**

*di (decir) haz (hacer) he (haber) pon (poner)*

*sal (salir) sé (ser) ten (tener) val (valer)*

*ve (ir) ven (venir)*

**4. In the affirmative command, first person plural, instead of using the present subjunctive command, *vamos a* (Let’s or Let us) + the infinitive may be used.**

***Vamos a comer.*** *Let’s eat.* ***Comamos.*** *Let’s eat.*

***Vamos a cantar.*** *Let’s sing.* ***Cantemos.*** *Let’s sing.*

**In the affirmative command, first person plural, *vamos* may be used to mean “Let’s go.”**

***Vamos*** *al cine. Let’s go to the movies.*

**However, if in the negative (Let’s not go), the present subjunctive of ir must be used.**

*No* ***vayamos*** *al cine. Let’s not go to the movies.*

**Note that vámonos (first person plural of irse, imperative) means “Let’s go” or “Let us go away” or “Let’s leave.”**

**Also note that *no nos vayamos* (first person plural of *irse*, present subjunctive) means “Let’s not go” or “Let’s not go away” or “Let’s not leave.”**

**5. The imperative in the affirmative familiar plural (*vosotros, vosotras*) is formed by dropping the final “r” of the infinitive and adding “d.”**

***Hablad****! Speak! ¡****Id****! Go!*

*¡****Comed!*** *Eat! ¡****Venid****! Come!*

**When forming the affirmative familiar plural (*vosotros, vosotras*) imperative of a reflexive verb, the final “d” on the infinitive must be dropped before the reflexive pronoun “os” is added, and both elements are joined to make one word.**

***Levantaos****! Get up! ¡****Sentaos!*** *Sit down!*

**When the final “d” is dropped in a reflexive verb ending in “-ir,” an accent mark must be written on the “i.”**

***Vestíos****! Get dressed! ¡****Divertíos****! Have a good time!*

**When forming the first person plural affirmative imperative of a reflexive verb, the final “s” must drop before the reflexive pronoun “*os*” is added, and both elements are joined to make one word. This requires an accent mark on the vowel of the syllable that was stressed before “*os*” was added.** “*Vamos + nos*” changes to:

***Vámonos!*** *Let’s go! Let’s go away! Let’s leave!*

**6. All negative imperatives in the familiar second person singular (*tú*) and plural (*vosotros, vosotras*) are expressed in the present subjunctive.**

*¡No* ***corras*** *(tú)! Don’t run!*

*¡No* ***corráis*** *(vosotros or vosotras) Don’t run!*

**7. Object pronouns (direct, indirect or reflexive) with an imperative verb form in the affirmative are attached to the verb form.**

***Hága****lo (Ud.) Do it! ¡****Díga****noslo! Tell it to us!*

*¡****Díme****lo (tú) Tell it to me! ¡****Levánta****te**(tú)! Get up!*

**8. Object pronouns (direct, indirect or reflexive) with an imperative verb form in the negative are placed in front of the verb form.** Compare the following examples with those above.

*¡No lo* ***haga*** *(Ud.)! Don’t do it!*

*¡No nos lo* ***diga*** *(Ud.)! Don’t tell it to us!*

*¡No me lo* ***digas*** *(tú)! Don’t tell it to me!*

*¡No te* ***levantes*** *(tú)! Don’t get up!*

**In Latin America the second person plural (vosotros, vosotras) forms are avoided. In place of them, the third person plural (*ustedes*) forms are customarily used.**