The imperative, (l'imperatif in French) is used to give commands, orders, or express wishes, like 'Stop!', 'Listen!' You may recognize the imperative from commands such as 'Ecoutez' or 'Répétez'. It is one of four moods in the French language. Unlike the other moods, the imperative is not divided into tenses. Keep in mind that the imperative is a very direct way to give an order. It is often replaced with more polite alternatives like the conditional.

**formation**

There are three forms of the imperative: **tu**, **nous** and **vous**. For all verbs, the imperative is formed by taking the corresponding forms of the present indicative, but without subject pronouns. The lack of a subject pronoun is what identifies the imperative mood.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verb</th>
<th>present</th>
<th>imperative</th>
<th>translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>finir</td>
<td>tu finis</td>
<td>finis</td>
<td>finish (you, familiar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>nous finissons</td>
<td>finissons</td>
<td>let's finish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vous finissez</td>
<td>finissez</td>
<td>finish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The **tu** form is used to give an order to a child or when the speaker is on familiar terms with the person addressed. The **vous** form is used to give an order to a group of people or to address one person in the vous form. The **nous** form is used to give an order that involves oneself as well as others, though it often expresses a suggestion as its translation (Let's ...) indicates.

Drop the final **s** in the **tu** forms of the imperative for **-er** verbs, including **aller**, and **-ir** verbs like **ouvrir** and other verbs whose present indicative form of **tu** ends in **-es**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verb</th>
<th>present</th>
<th>imperative</th>
<th>translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>regarder</td>
<td>tu regardes</td>
<td>regarde</td>
<td>look</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ouvrir</td>
<td>tu ouvres</td>
<td>ouvre</td>
<td>open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>va</td>
<td>tu vas</td>
<td>va</td>
<td>go</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When these forms are followed by the pronoun **y** or **en**, the **-s** is reattached for pronunciation purposes. For example:

Corey: Bette, **va** au supermarché! **Vas-y**! Et achète de l'insecticide pour moi ... Tu m'entends? **Achêtes-en** pour moi!

Bette: Imbécile, l'insecticide est dangereux pour les cafards! Paf!

Corey: Oh, Bette ... aide-moi à me relever, s'il te plaît.

Bette: Tu es vraiment trop bête. Je m'en vais.

Corey: Bette, go to the supermarket! Go there! And buy some insecticide for me ... Do you hear me? Buy some for me!

Bette: Imbecile, insecticide is dangerous for cockroaches! Pow!

Corey: Oh, Bette, help me back up, please.

Bette: You are really too stupid. I'm leaving.
irregular imperatives
There are several verbs that have irregular imperative forms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>avoir</th>
<th>être</th>
<th>savoir</th>
<th>vouloir</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>aie</td>
<td>sois</td>
<td>sache</td>
<td>veuille</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ayons</td>
<td>soyons</td>
<td>sachons</td>
<td>veuillons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ayez</td>
<td>soyez</td>
<td>sachez</td>
<td>veuillez</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

imperative of pronominal verbs
For pronominal verbs, the subject pronoun is dropped and the object pronoun is placed after the verb and is attached with a hyphen. Te becomes toi in this situation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>se souvenir</th>
<th>‘to remember’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>present</td>
<td>imperative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu te souviens</td>
<td>souviens-toi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous nous souvenons</td>
<td>souvenons-nous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vous vous souvenez</td>
<td>souvenez-vous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

negative commands
The forms of the affirmative imperative (an order to do something) have been presented in the above charts. In negative commands (an order not to do something), place the ne ... pas around the imperative, as in Ne regarde pas ('Don’t look'). In negative commands for reflexive verbs, the object pronoun is placed in front of the verb.

Corey: Ne te moque pas de moi! Corey: Don't make fun of me!
Joe-Bob: Ne nous moquons pas de Corey! Joe-Bob: Let's not make fun of Corey!

pronoun object with imperatives
Other non-pronominal pronoun objects follow the same placement as objects of pronominal verbs. As usual, the subject pronoun is dropped. In the negative, the ne precedes the object pronoun and the verb. In the affirmative imperative, the pronoun object follows the verb, and the forms moi and toi replace me and te.

Corey: Aidez-moi, aidez-moi! Je n'arrive pas à me relever.
Corey: Help me, help me! I can't get back up.
Joe-Bob: Retournons-le! Allez, un, deux, trois ... Doucement, doucement. Ne le faites pas trop vite!
Joe-Bob: Let's turn him. Let's go, one, two, three ... Slowly, slowly. Don't do it too fast!
Listen to the following dialogue:

Corey: Merci, tout le monde. Ça va beaucoup mieux. **Allons** à Barton Springs cet après-midi.

Joe-Bob: D'accord, mais **écoute**, d'abord je dois mettre mon maillot.

Corey: Oui, bien sûr, mais **dépêche-toi**.

Joe-Bob: J'arrive. **N'oublions pas** l'insecticide. Il y a tant d'insectes empoisonnants en ce moment!

Corey: **Eh moi alors?**

Joe-Bob: Oh, pas toi, Corey. Tu n'es jamais empoisonnant!

Corey: **Oui, bien sûr, mais dépêche-toi.**

Tammy: Okay, but listen, first I have to put on my swimsuit.

Tex: Yes, of course, but hurry.

Corey: And me?

Joe-Bob: **噢, not you, Corey. You are never irritating!**

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**fill in the blanks**

Fill in the blank with the imperative form of the verb between parentheses.

1. Tex : __________ Tammy! On étaient si heureux à Lyon! (se rappeler)
2. Tammy : Tex, _________ tes légumes! (finir)
3. Tex : ___________ de nous disputer! (arrêter)
4. Tammy : ___________ prétentieux, Tex! (ne pas être)
5. Tex et Tammy : ___________ rester modestes! (savoir)
6. Tammy : ___________ chez le coiffeur Tex! (aller)
7. Tammy : Tu as envie d'aller chez Bette, Tex? _________-y! (aller)
8. Tammy : J'achète du vin? Tex : Oui, __________-en plusieurs bouteilles! (acheter)
9. Tammy : Ta maison n'est pas propre Tex! ___________ tes affaires! (ranger)
10. Tammy : Edouard, Corey, ___________! Vous allez être en retard! (se dépêcher)
11. Tex : Edouard, Corey, ceci est secret! ___________ à Tammy! (ne pas parler)
12. Tex : Chers amis, ___________ tous à mon anniversaire! (venir)