

IMPERATIVE VERB FORMS

When to use imperatives?

You use imperative construction when you want to tell someone what to do (e.g. 'work!') or what not to do (e.g. 'don't work') or when you're making a suggestion (e.g. 'let's work!', 'let's not work').

There are three conjugated imperative forms: **ti** (you –singular) **vi** (you - plural) and **mi** (we).

How to make imperatives?

The base for an imperative is the present tense verb stem for 3rd person plural (please see the [present tense file](#)). We have two imperative rules depending on what present tense endings we have:

IMPERATIVE 1: Take out the present tense 3rd person plural ending **–u** or **–e** of the verb and add the imperative ending **–i**.

If it's complicated, I hope the examples below would help.

TABLE 1: Imperative of **pisati 'to write' and **raditi** 'to work'**

3 rd plural present tense	IMPERATIVE	
	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Oni piš- u 'they write'		Piš- imo! (let's write!)
	Piš- i! (you) write!	Piš- ite! ((you) write!)
Oni rad- e 'they work'		Rad- imo! (let's work!)
	Rad- i! (you) work!	Rad- ite! (you) work!)

As you can see, for the first and second person plural, you need to add the appropriate present tense ending to the imperative ending **–i**: namely **–mo** (for first person plural) and **–te** (for second person plural).

IMPERATIVE 2: Take out the present tense 3rd person plural ending **–ju** or **–je** of the verb and add the imperative ending **–j**

TABLE 2: Imperative of **pitati 'to ask' and **pevati** 'to sing'**

3 rd plural present tense	IMPERATIVE	
	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Oni pita- ju 'they ask'		Pita- jmo! (let's ask!)
	Pita- j! (you) ask!	Pita- jte! ((you) ask!)
Oni peva- ju 'they sing'		Peva- jmo! (let's sing!)
	Peva- j! (you) sing!	Peva- jte! ((you) sing!)

In addition to the above two imperative rules, there are two more:

IMPERATIVE 3: Neka ('let') + 3rd person plural present tense verb

TABLE 3: Imperative with 'neka'

3 rd plural present tense stem	IMPERATIVE	
	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Oni piš- u 'they write'		Neka piš emo ! (let's write!)
	Neka piš e ! (let him/her write)	Neka piš u ! (let them write)
Oni pita- ju 'they ask'		Neka pitaj mo (let's ask!)
	Neka pita a ! (let him/her ask)	Neka pitaju! (let them ask)

In colloquial speech, speakers also use the following imperative construction:

IMPERATIVE 4: Hajde + da + 3rd person plural present tense verb

TABLE 4: Imperative with hajde da 'let's'

3 rd plural present tense stem	IMPERATIVE	
	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Oni kupuju 'they buy'		Hajde da kupimo sat! ('Let's buy a watch!')
	Hajde da kupiš sat! ('(you) buy a watch!')	Hajde da kupite sat! ((you) buy a watch!')

How do you say to someone not to do something?

Many ways, but here I show two ways:

NEGATIVE IMPERATIVE1: Ne + imperative verb form

As the rule says, you put the negative particle '**ne**' in front of the imperative verb. Some examples:

TABLE 5: 'Negative' imperative1: Ne + imperative verb

SINGULAR	PLURAL
	Ne pita-jmo! (let's not ask!)
Ne pita-j! ((you) don't ask!)	Ne pita-jte! ((you) don't ask!)
	Ne peva-jmo! (let's not sing!)
Ne peva-j! (you) don't sing!	Ne peva-jte! ((you) don't sing!)

Another way is to use inflected forms: nemoj/nemojte/nemojmo ('don't') and infinitive verb form:

**NEGATIVE
IMPERATIVE2:**

Nemoj/nemojte/nemojmo + infinitive verb

TABLE 6: 'Negative' imperative2: Nemoj/nemojte/nemojmo + infinitive verb

SINGULAR	PLURAL
	Nemojmo pitati! (let's not ask!)
Nemoj pitati! ((you) don't ask!	Nemojte pitati! ((you) don't ask!)
	Ne peva-jmo! (let's not sing!)
Ne peva-j! (you) don't sing!	Ne peva-jte! ((you) don't sing!)

If you want more negative imperative constructions, I'll gladly provide it.