

Notes for Formal Commands (Polite Commands)

(Imperative – Ud. and Uds. commands)

Commands are used when ordering, or telling someone to do something. This is often referred to as the “imperative” form of the verb.

Formation of formal commands

1. Start with the **yo** form of the present indicative.
2. Then, drop the **–o** ending.
3. Add the following endings:

-ar verbs..... **–e** (for Ud.), **–en** (for Uds.)

-er and –ir verbs..... **–a** (for Ud.), **–an** (for Uds.)

Examples:

Eat the dinner.	Coma Ud. la cena.	or	Coman Uds. la cena.
	Eat the dinner (you)		Eat the dinner (all of you)

Note: If the first person singular (yo) form is irregular, that irregularity is carried over into the formation of the formal command. This also applies to stem-changing verbs.

Example:	Bring the money.	Traiga Ud. el dinero.
	Return quickly.	Vuelvan Uds. pronto.

Irregular Commands

The following verbs are irregular:

1. **dar** dé Ud. or den Uds.
2. **estar** esté Ud. or estén Uds.
3. **ir** vaya Ud. or vayan Uds.
4. **ser** sea Ud. or sean Uds.
5. **saber** sepa Ud. or sepan Uds.

Other information about formal commands that you should know:

1. Affirmative and negative commands use the same verb forms.
Example: Hable Ud – Speak.
No hable Ud. – Don’t speak.
2. The subject pronouns *Ud. and Uds.* may or may not be used. Using them adds a degree of formality or politeness to the command.
Example: Hable. – Speak.
Hable Ud. – Speak (sir). (more respectful or polite)