

# BON APPETIT

## SUB-HEADING- L'IMPERATIF

**SUBJECT : FRENCH**  
**CHAPTER NUMBER: 7**  
**CHAPTER NAME : BON APPETIT**

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**CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW**

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# L'IMPERATIF

**The imperative**, (l'impératif 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.

# L'IMPERATIF

Finir 'to finish'

present

imperative

translation

tu

finis

finis

finish (you, familiar)

nous

finissons

finissons

let's finish

Vous

finissez

finissez

finish

# L'IMPERATIF

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:

present

imperative translation

tu	regardes	regarde	look
tu	ouvres	ouvre	open
tu	vas	va	go

# L'IMPERATIF

Exceptions in the imperative

Some verbs have an **irregular imperative form**.

## Infinitive

Aller

avoir

être

savoir

vouloir

## Imperative

va, allons, allez

aie, ayons, ayez

sois, soyons, soyez

sache, sachons, sachez

veille, veillons, veuillez

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