

Mandatos y Objetos

Commands

There are two kinds of commands: affirmative and negative. In other words, you can command someone to do something—or not to do it. In Spanish, affirmative and negative commands are different in their spelling and arrangement. For example:

AFFIRMATIVE
NEGATIVE

¡Mira!
¡No mires!

Look!
Don't look!

Another difference is determined by whom you are commanding. If speaking to someone equal (or lesser) to you in age and social status, use an informal command. If speaking to someone distinguished by age or social status, use a formal command.

Titles of authority such as *Mister, Officer, President, or Princess*—regardless of age—confer a higher social status and require a formal command with subdued body language. It is considered very rude, for example, to raise your voice or point to a person of greater social status.

INFORMAL (tú)
FORMAL (usted)

¡Mira, Ana!
¡Mire, Señor!

¡No mires, Ana!
¡No mire, Condesa!

Including Indirect Object Pronouns and Direct Objects

Spanish commands with two object pronouns (direct and indirect) require you to follow a few rules.

Affirmative

Affirmative commands, whether formal or informal, require you to attach the object to the end of the verb.

Ponlo.
Póngalo.
Put it on.

Tráela.
Tráigalo.
Bring it.

Dime.
Dígame.
Tell me.

Notice that verbs with two or more syllables require you to add an accent mark to the second-to-last syllable. Also note that verbs with only one syllable only require an accent if you add an indirect object pronoun and a direct object.

TIP: place the accent mark over the vowel with the verbal emphasis before anything was attached to the verb.

Habla.
Speak.

Háblame.
Speak to me.

Escuche.
Listen.

Escúcheme.
Listen to me.

Remember that the indirect object pronoun (a person) always goes before the direct object (a thing).

Póntelo.
Put it on (yourself).

Tráemelo.
Bring it to me.

Dímelo.
Say it to me.

Remember that if both pronouns start with the letter L, you must change the indirect pronoun to "se".

INCORRECT
CORRECT

Léelelo.
Léeselo.
Read it to him.

Sírvalela.
Sírvasela.
Serve it to her.

Negative

Negative commands require you to put the objects before the imperative.

No te lo pongas.
Don't put it on (yourself).

No me lo traiga.
Don't bring it to me.

