

TutorTube: Commands

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Introduction

Hello and welcome to TutorTube, where The Learning Center's Lead Tutors help you understand challenging course concepts with easy to understand videos. My name is Darren Churn, Lead Tutor for Spanish. In today's video, we will explore commands. Let's get started.

What Are Commands?

Commands (also known as mandatos) are an important part of the Spanish language. In English, commands are created through inflection and stating the action. In Spanish, the form of a verb is altered to become a mandato. There are both informal and formal commands. Let's start with informal commands.

Informal Commands

Informal commands refer to commands directed at people that are friends or family. This is specifically referring to people who fall under the tú group in Spanish. Informal commands are created by altering the conjugation of verbs. If we look at the present tense, in order to form the informal or tú command, the conjugation for the él/ella/usted form is used. Let's use hablar as an example. Hablar ends in AR which means the endings are "-o, -as, -a, -amos, -an." The él/ella/usted form makes "habla." Habla would be used as the informal command and mean "Speak." "Habla conmigo" is "Speak with me".

Informal commands also have irregulars. A good mnemonic device to remember them is "Ven Diesel has ten weapons." The irregular forms of the verbs are ven, di, sal, haz, ten, ve, pon, sé. The infinitives associated with the irregular forms are venir, decir, salir, hacer, tener, ir, poner, and ser.

Formal Commands

Formal commands are used to speak to those who are unfamiliar or in a position of authority and deserving of respect. This means those who fall under the usted form. The formal or usted command is formed the exact way as the subjunctive.

The process Yo Flip is used to get the correct conjugation. The present tense yo form of a verb is used and then the ending is switched to the opposite vowel. Let's use poner as an example. The present tense yo form of poner is pongo. The infinitive ends in ER which means the opposite vowel ending is A. Our formal command for "put" is "ponga." In order to make formal commands negative, a no is placed before the mandato. "No ponga" is "Do not put."

There are also a few irregular formal commands. A mnemonic device that can be used is "Dogs eat super sugary igloos." The infinitives are dar, estar, saber, ser, and ir. The irregulars are dé, esté, sepa, sea, and vaya.

Negative Informal Commands

Forming the negative informal command is a little more complicated than adding a no like for the formal commands. The negative informal command is formed by No + formal usted command + s. "Do not put" requires the yo flip of the verb poner which creates ponga and No before and an s added onto the end. We then get "No pongas."

Nosotros and Ustedes Commands

Along with the singular commands are the plural nosotros and ustedes commands. These two commands are simply formal commands with additional endings. The nosotros command is the "Let us ..." in English. For this command, we add "mos" to the end of the formal command. "Let us talk" is "Hablemos."

For the ustedes command, we add an "n" to the end of the formal command. This is used when directing a command towards a group of people. "Hablen" is still talk but used to direct many people.

Outro

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