

Using Imperatives (a language technique)



Introduction

The purpose of this PowerPoint is to introduce the use of imperatives as a language technique.

By the end of this PowerPoint you will have the knowledge and understanding of how to identify the technique within a range of texts.

When completing any form of writing activity for functional skills, try to apply the technique you've learned.

Learning outcomes

- To define the term 'imperative'
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the language technique

Using Imperatives

What is an imperative?

If you are not sure, look in a dictionary or online to establish its meaning?

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide consists of several overlapping, wavy bands of color. From left to right, the colors transition from orange to red, then to a vibrant pink, and finally to a lighter pink.

An imperative is ...

a sentence that expresses a command or polite request. For example, ***“Come here!”***

“Close the door.” (a command)

“Please be quiet.” (a polite request)

Using imperatives can also include ...

Invitations – “Come to dinner.”

Words of advice – “Eat an apple – it’s much better for you than a biscuit!”

An offer – “Have a drink with me, please.”



How to spot an imperative verb?

For example,

the word 'close' is a verb, as in **to close** something.

Kick off the 'to' part and start with the word 'close' to form your sentence.

Close the door! Close the window, please.

How to identify an imperative

Imperatives can be in bullet points, numbered or in a list.

1. Place the green lentils in a large bowl and pour boiling water over them. Leave to soak for 30 minutes. (Alternatively, buy a tin of pre soaked lentils.) Drain.
2. Heat the oil in a large saucepan and fry the onion and garlic together with the chilli and cumin, about ten minutes or until the onions are soft.
3. Add the peppers, carrots and drained green lentils and cook for five minutes, stirring all the time. Add the tomatoes, purée, stock and peas, bring to the boil and simmer until the lentils are tender (about 30 minutes). Add the mushrooms and courgettes and simmer for five minutes more. Season to taste.
4. Add the cooked kidney beans and simmer for five more minutes.
5. Serve with cooked rice.



http://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/vegetarianchilli_6544

When giving directions we often use words such as:

- **Turn** left
- **Turn** right
- **Take** the second road on the ...
- **Go** straight on until you come to ...



*Remember: A verb is a **doing** word!*

Activity: Look at the words below. Identify the words that could be used as imperative verbs.

shut	chair	fold	open
sad	put	first	mix
close	go	night	switch

To write in the negative, simply ...

Use **do not + imperative verb form**

So, “**Do not smoke** in this building.”

“**Don’t rush**, I’m in no hurry.”

Now, make your own sentence to show your understanding.

Activity

Find a recipe of your choice. This could be online or in a paper form.

Write down as many imperative verbs as you can from within the text.



Exam practice

Refer to the City & Guilds Level 2 Reading paper, Saving Energy

Question 4, (document 2)

Can you identify the various imperative verbs used in the webpage?

Activity

Refer to the City & Guilds Level 2 paper, Social Media

Question 4

Name **two** language techniques used to sell the book. Give an example of each and briefly explain how each is effective?

Exam practice (answers)

Saving Energy

Click here; make an appointment; arrange a home visit; call our helpline.

Social Media

Example: take action today!

Explanation: prompts the reader to take action

Imperatives answers

shut	chair	fold	open
sad	put	first	mix
close	go	night	switch

Imperatives

To shut, to fold, to open, to put, to mix, to close, to go, to switch,
to chair (a meeting)

chair – can also be a noun

sad – is an adjective

first – adjective, adverb or noun

night – noun or adjective