

Spanish Ear Training

Variations on a Theme – Informal Commands Parts 1-2

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Informal Commands Parts 1

In this lesson we'll look at some very common, informal commands.

In the script you'll remember we had,
Cuando comas, come.

As I explained in "How They Speak",
the second conjugation,
come,
is the informal command, *eat*.

Let's run through a few of the verbs and see if you can get this idea.

How do you say informally, *you eat*?
Comes.

How do you say formally, *you eat*?
Come.

How do you make the informally command or the imperative, *eat*.
Come.

Yes, the formal 2nd person, "you eat", and the imperative or command, "eat", are the same.

A little confusing, yes, but the good news is that it makes it easy to use the informal commands. Let's practice. Everything in this lesson will be in the informal, unless I say otherwise.

Say, *eat*.
Come.

Say, *eat more*.
Come más.

Say, *eat more broccoli, please*.
Come más brócoli, por favor.

As you can see, these informal commands are often used with children.

How do you say, *to say* or *to tell*?
Decir.

How do you say informally, *you say*?

Dices.

How do you say formally, *you say*?

Dice.

In this case, the informal command is an irregular verb.

Di.

Make the informal command, *say* or *tell*.

Di.

Say, *tell the truth*.

Di la verdad.

Like infinitives, the commands in Spanish can have pronouns attached to them. For example,

Dime.

Which means, *tell me*.

Say, *tell me*.

Dime.

Listen to the informal command, *say to him* or *say to her*.

Dile.

Say, *say to him*.

Dile.

Say, *say to him, hello*.

Dile, hola.

Say, *say to him, thank you*.

Dile, gracias.

As I mentioned, it's a good form for talking with kids. And as I have two young children, these examples are examples that I hear very often.

How would you make the informal command, *speak*?

Habla.

Say, *speak more slowly, please*.

Habla más despacio, por favor.

It's probable that you may want to say that to a stranger. So, I'll teach you how to make that command formally.

To make that formal,

Habla,

changes to,

Hable.

Make the formal command, *speaking*.

Hable.

Say formally, *speaking more slowly, please*.

Hable más despacio, por favor.

Ok. Now we'll switch back to the informal. Do you know how to say, *louder*.

Más fuerte.

Say, *speaking louder*.

Habla más fuerte.

Say, *speaking louder, please*.

Habla más fuerte, por favor.

Do you remember from last month's lesson how to say, *I hear*?

Oigo.

How would you say, *I hear you*?

Te oigo.

Say, *I don't hear you*.

No te oigo.

Say, *speaking louder, please*.

Habla más fuerte, por favor.

I don't hear you.

No te oigo.

Say, *speaking louder, please*.

Habla más fuerte, por favor.

I don't hear you, very well.

No te oigo, muy bien.

In Spanish there are a few ways to say, *help*.

If you're in trouble and it's some kind of emergency where you need immediate help, you can say,

socorro

or

auxilio.

But if it's just general *help*, maybe help fixing something or help carrying something, you can say,

ayuda.

Say, *help me*.

Ayúdame.

Say, *help me, please*.

Ayúdame, por favor.

You've reached the end of this audio lesson. Please go on to the next.

Informal Commands Parts 2

Say, *visit me*.

Visítame.

Say, *listen*.

Escucha.

Say, *listen to me*.

Escúchame.

Say, *listen to me, please*.

Escúchame, por favor.

It's important.

Es importante.

Say, *listen to me, please. It's important.*

Escúchame, por favor. Es importante.

Say, *listen to me, please. It's very important.*

Escúchame, por favor. Es muy importante.

Listen to, *what*, when, *what*, is used as a conjunction.

Lo que.

I like to think of it as, *that which*.

Lo que.

Say, *that which*

Lo que

I have to say.

tengo que decir.

Say, *that which* or *what I have to say*.

Lo que tengo que decir.

How would you say, *to say to you* or *to tell you*?

Decirte.

Say, *I have to tell to you*.

Tengo que decirte.

Say, *that which* or *what I have to tell you*.
Lo que tengo que decirte.

Say, *listen to me, please*.
Escúchame, por favor.

What I have to tell you
Lo que Tengo que decirte

is very important.
es muy importante.

Say, *listen to me, please*.
Escúchame, por favor.

What I have to tell you is very important.
Lo que tengo que decirte es muy importante.

Say, *visit us*.
Visítanos.

Say, *visit us, again*.
Visítanos, otra vez.

Say, *visit us, again, soon*.
Visítanos, otra vez, pronto.

Do you remember the verb for, *to chat*?
Platicar.

Say, *chat to us*.
Platícanos.

Say, *tell us*.
Dinos.

Say, *tell us the truth*.
Dinos la verdad.

Say, *come back*.
Regresa.

Say, *come back, soon*.
Regresa, pronto.

You can also use the verb,
regresar,
to mean, *to put back*.

Do you know the Spanish for, *the toy*?
El juguete.

Say, *put back the toy*
Regresa el juguete

to it's place.
a su lugar.

Say, *put back the toy to it's place.*
Regresa el juguete a su lugar.

In English, we'd probably say, *put back the toy in it's place*. But in Spanish, it's more common to say, *put back the toy to it's place*.
Regresa el juguete a su lugar.

Speaking about the toy, how would you say, *put it back*?
Regrésalo.

Say, *put it back to it's place.*
Regrésalo a su lugar.

Do you know how to say, *the doll*?
La muñeca.

Say, *put the doll back to it's place.*
Regresa la muñeca a su lugar.

Speaking about the doll, which is a feminine word, say, *put it back*.
Regrésala.

Say, *put it back to it's place.*
Regrésala a su lugar.

How do you say, *to come*?
Venir.

This informal command, *come*, is irregular. Listen to, *come*.
Ven.

Speaking about the toy, say, *come and put it back*.
Ven y regrésalo.

Speaking about the doll, say, *come and put it back*.

Ven y regrésala.

Again, speaking about the toy, say, *come and put it back, now*.

Ven y regrésalo, ahora.

Speaking about the doll, say, *come and put it back, now*.

Ven y regrésala, ahora.

Say, *to put*.

Poner.

Again, another irregular verb, when it comes to the informal command. Listen to how you say, *put*.

Pon.

Speaking about the toy, say, *put it*

Ponlo

in it's place.

en su lugar.

Say, *put it in it's place.*

Ponlo en su lugar.

Speaking about the the doll. Say. *put it in it's place.*

Ponla en su lugar.

Do you know the Spanish word for, *the garbage or the trash?*

La basura.

Say, *put the trash*

Pon la basura

in it's place.

en su lugar.

Say, *put the trash in it's place.*

Pon la basura en su lugar.

This lesson continues on the next track.