

Verb Drills 1 – Week 7 – Conjugating regular Italian verbs in the imperative tense

The imperative tense is relatively easy to learn but is at the same time handled a little differently due to the nature of the tense.

The imperative tense being for commands and orders negates the use of the first person singular or "io" as you don't typically order yourself to do something. There are also no 3rd person commands. The first person plural or "noi" can be used but it is more of a strong suggestion such as "let's go!" etc. Therefore instead of the typical 1st, 2nd, 3rd person singular and plural view of the conjugation, in the imperative tense we conjugate the verb to work with the 2nd person (familiar and formal) singular, 1st person plural and 2nd person (familiar and formal) plural.

It is also important to note that the negative of the 2nd person singular or the familiar "tu" is merely non + the infinitive

To illustrate how to conjugate these verbs, I like to use math equations as an example but first here are the conjugated endings for all regular verbs;

Subject Pronoun	(ARE) Ending	(ERE) Ending	(IRE) Ending
Tu (familiar)	a	i	(isc) i
Lei (formal)	i	a	(isc) a
Noi	iamo	iamo	iamo
Voi (familiar)	ate	ete	ite
Loro (formal)	ino	ano	(isc) ano

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To conjugate the regular ARE verbs in the imperative tense = infinitive verb – infinitive ending = verb stem + conjugated ending = conjugated verb. Example;

Parlare (To Speak) - are = Parl + iamo (ending for we) = Parliamo (Let's speak)

Parlare conjugated in the imperative tense

Tu	Parla	Speak! (familiar)	Non parlare	Don't speak! (familiar)
Lei	Parli	Speak! (formal)	Non parli	Don't speak! (formal)
Noi	Parliamo	Let's speak!		
Voi	Parlate	Y'all speak! (familiar)	Non parlate	Don't y'all speak! (familiar)
Loro	Parlino	Y'all speak! (formal)	Non parlino	Don't y'all speak! (formal)

To conjugate the regular ERE verbs in the imperative tense = infinitive verb – infinitive ending = verb stem + conjugated ending = conjugated verb. Example;

Scrivere (To write) - ere = Scriv + iamo (ending for we) = Scriviamo (Let's write)

Scrivere conjugated in the imperative tense

Tu	Scrivi	Write! (familiar)	Non Scrivere	Don't write! (familiar)
Lei	Scriva	Write! (formal)	Non Scriva	Don't write! (formal)
Noi	Scriviamo	Let's write!		
Voi	Scrivete	Y'all write! (familiar)	Non Scrivete	Don't y'all write! (familiar)
Loro	Scrivano	Y'all write! (formal)	Non Scrivano	Don't y'all write! (formal)

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To conjugate the regular IRE verbs in the imperative tense = infinitive verb – infinitive ending = verb stem + conjugated ending = conjugated verb. Example;

Pulire (To clean) - ire = Pul + iamo (ending for we) = Puliamo (Let's clean)

Pulire conjugated in the imperative tense

Tu	Pulisci	Clean! (familiar)	Non pulire	Don't clean! (familiar)
Lui/Lei	Pulisca	Clean! (formal)	Non pulisca	Don't clean! (formal)
Noi	Puliamo	Let's clean!		
Voi	Pulite	Y'all clean! (familiar)	Non pulite	Don't y'all clean! (familiar)
Loro	Puliscano	Y'all clean! (formal)	Non puliscano	Don't y'all clean! (formal)

There are verbs in all three conjugations that have irregular stems that they use with the same endings.