



INTERMEDIATE 1 *Lesson 1*

REGULAR VERBS IN THE IMPERATIVE

“MANGE !” “CHOISIS !”

QUIZZES: MY SCORE

Did you test yourself on the quizzes?

Take the test, fix your knowledge and learn from your mistakes!

Fill in your score in the table below, from the last time you took the test:

Quiz 1:

/10

Quiz 2:

/10

Master Quiz:

/10

1 - WHY THIS TENSE MATTERS

L'impératif sert à donner des conseils ou des ordres.

The imperative is used to give advice or commands.

You might want to use it in casual conversation, to make plans or to cheer for someone. And it's relatively simple, to boot!

For the imperative, we only use three grammatical persons:

- **Tu** (singular “You”, familiar)
- **Vous** (plural “Tu”, or singular “You” for respect and deference)
- **Nous** (“We”)

However, we don't even actually add these pronouns before the verbs.

[*Fun fact:* The imperative is actually **un mode** (= a grammatical mood or mode), and not **un temps** (= a tense.)]



1 - CONJUGATION TABLES

Here is the table for the imperative of regular verbs.

[*Reminder:* Regular verbs are verbs from the 1st and 2nd groups. First group verbs are all the verbs that end in **-er** in the infinitive, except **Aller**. Second group verbs are the verbs that end in **-ir** in the infinitive, and in **-issons** for “**Nous**” in the present.]

Verb	Danser (= “to dance”)	Finir (= “to end”)
(“Tu”)	Danse !	Finis !
(“Nous”)	Dansons !	Finissons !
(“Vous”)	Dancez !	Finissez !

All 1st group verbs follow the same endings as “**Danser**” : **Manger** (= to eat), **Rêver** (= to dream), **Penser** (= to think)...

All 2nd group verbs follow the same endings as “**Finir**” : **Choisir** (= to choose), **Grandir** (= to grow, to get taller), **Réussir** (= to manage, to have success)...

The verbs keep the same stem as for the present tense.

1st group endings for the imperative (Tu / Nous / Vous):

- e
- ons
- ez

2nd group endings for the imperative (Tu / Nous / Vous):

- is
- issons
- issez



3 - THE EXTRA MILE: NEGATIVE SENTENCES

In French, the imperative stays the same in negative sentences (contrary to Spanish, for instance).

You just need to add “**Ne... pas**” around the verb (and you can even drop the **Ne** in colloquial spoken French).

For example:

Ne mange pas ça ! = *Don't eat this!*

Choisis pas le mauvais fromage ! = *Don't choose the wrong cheese!* (informal)

[Final note: Irregular verbs in French can have very counterintuitive imperative conjugations. Even French people often make mistakes with them! Studying the imperative of irregular verbs is for a later, more advanced lesson.]