

Imperatives

Conjugation

The imperative form of a verb is used for giving commands. It is made up of three parts:

1. The prefix "بـ" (pronounced like "be" in "bed")
2. The present stem of the verb
3. The imperative suffix (plural only)

Here is an example for the verb "to sit":

Verb Infinitive: **زَدَن** Present Stem: **زَن**

Hit! (singular)	بزن
Hit! (plural)	بزنید

If the first vowel of the present stem of the verb has an "o" sound, the prefix changes into "بـ" (pronounced like "bo" in "bold").

Eat! (singular)	بخور
Kill them! (plural)	بکشیدشان
Go! (singular)	برو

Negative Imperatives

The negative imperative structure is exactly like the normal imperative, except that the suffix preceding the verb is "نـ" (pronounced like "na" in "narrow").

Verb Infinitive: *نشستن* Present Stem: *نشین*

Don't sit! (singular)	<i>نشین!</i>
Don't sit! (plural)	<i>نشینید!</i>

Exceptions

The imperative form of the two verbs “بودن” (“to be”) and “داشتن” (“to have”) is not made using the general rule.

Verb Infinitive: *بودن* Present Stem: *باش*

Be! (singular)	<i>باش</i>
Be! (plural)	<i>باشید</i>

As you see, the only difference was that the prefix was omitted. The difference is more dramatic for the verb “داشتن” (“to have”):

Verb Infinitive: *داشتن* Present Stem: *دار*

Have! (singular)	<i>داشته باش</i>
Have! (plural)	<i>داشته باشید</i>

Another group of exceptions is the class of combined verbs that their verb part is from the infinitive “کردن” (“to do”) or “شدن” (“to become”). (Actually, there are other verbs that go in this group as well, but there is no rule to distinguish them. They must be learned by experience.) For these verbs, like the verb “to be”, the prefix “بـ” is omitted. Here are some examples:

Work! You lazy people!

کار کنید، تنبل‌ها!

First make sure (*lit.* become sure) that it's me (*lit.* I am me) then open the door.

اول مطمئن شو که منم بعد در را باز کن.

For all these exceptional verbs, the negative imperative is obtained by simply adding the "نَ" prefix before them and omitting nothing.

Examples

Here is a set of examples containing instances of some different cases.

Know your enemies!

دشمنانت را بشناس!

Draw my picture.

عکس من را بکش.

Say your name.

اسمت را بگو.

Don't touch this painting!

به این تابلو دست نزن!

Please don't park here.

لطفاً در اینجا پارک نکنید.

Give me your hand.

دستت را بده به من.

Don't be so mean.

این قدر بدجنس نباش.

Don't love anyone.

هیچ کس را دوست نداشته باش.

Don't think about the past.

به گذشته فکر نکن.

If he/she didn't work well, fire him/her.

اگر خوب کار نکرد اخراجش کن.

Learn this well.

این را خوب یاد بگیر.

About the last group of exceptions, it should be added that the verbs “کردن” and “شدن” must always be considered as part of a combined verb:

//it. become slim a bit!	کمی لاغر شو!
Make me president!	من را رئیس جمهور کنید!

They are only considered separate simple verbs when there is no noun in the sentence that could possibly be part of a combined verb. This is the only way they can come with the “بـ” suffix.

Do this (and exactly this) job.	همین کار را بکن.
You said I won't get angry, but do [get angry]!	گفتی عصبانی نمی شوم، اما بشو!

It is important to learn the imperative correctly since its structure is also used in conjugating verbs of the present subjunctive tense. The following table might be helpful for knowing where to use the “بـ” suffix in imperatives.

Verb	Imperative
بودن:	باش
داشتن:	داشته باش
Other simple verbs (e.g. “خندیدن”):	Must use “بـ” (e.g. “بخند”)
Combined verbs from “کردن” and “شدن”:	Never use “بـ” (e.g. “فکر کن”)
Other combined verbs:	Must use “بـ” (e.g. “یاد بگیر”)
Prefixed verbs:	No general rule