Technical Writing
Explain How to Do Something
Grammar : Imperative Sentences
Count Nouns & Noncount Nouns
Lecture : 8
Part: 1

Technical Writing

Grammar

Imperative Sentences

Count Nouns & Noncount Nouns

Technical Writing
Imperative Sentences

❑ An imperative sentence expresses a command or a request. When we give someone instructions, we often use imperative sentences.

❑ You have learned that a sentence must have a subject and a verb. In an imperative sentence the subject is always *you*, but it is not stated.

❑ Imperative sentences begin from the base form of the verb and end with a period or an exclamation point. Look at the examples. Notice that each one begins with a verb.

❑ For negative imperative forms, we use: do + not (or don't) + base form of the verb.

❑ Use the imperative form to give instructions, directions, or orders.

❑ The imperative is like the simple present tense for you without the subject.

Simple Present	Imperative Sentences	
	Affirmative	Negative
You write a story.	Write a story.	Do not write a story.
You get six onions.	Get six onions.	Do not get six onions.
You go to the market.	Go to the market.	Do not go to the market.

Giving Instructions

Imperative Statements	
Statements (Affirmative)	Press the start button. Close the door. Add the sugar. Go to the Department of Motor vehicles in the state where you live and fill out an application. Slow down !
Negative statements	Do not make any loud noises. Do not let the water boil. Don't add too much salt.

Imperative Sentences

Write the words in the correct order to make imperative sentences.

1. to / the / go / supermarket

2. a / cart / shopping / get

3. and / buy / eggs / fruit

4. home / go

5. the / groceries / carry

6. groceries / the / away / put

Imperative Statements

Change the sentences in the previous exercise to the negative imperative form.

_____

_____

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Grammar: Count and Noncount Nouns

There are two kinds of nouns in English. Count nouns and noncount nouns.

Count Nouns :

❑ Count nouns are nouns that you can count : one cup, two pencils, five chairs, twenty seven students.

❑ Count nouns have a singular form and a plural form.

❑ Use a or an before singular count nouns. Use a with singular count nouns that begin with a consonant sound. Use an with singular count nouns that begin with a vowel sound.

Noncount Nouns :

❑ Noncount nouns are things that we can't or don't usually count.

❑ Noncount Nouns do not have singular or plural forms. They always take the verb form used with singular nouns.

❑ Examples :

I put some sugar in my coffee.

He likes a little milk in his tea.

We have a lot of homework.

Categories	Examples
Food	Bread, butter, cheese, chicken, fish , flour, pepper, rice, salt, sugar
Liquid	Coffee, juice, milk, soda, soup, tea, water
Subjects	Chemistry, English, History, Math, Music
Abstract ideas	Anger, beauty, humor, justice, knowledge, love, luck
Others	Furniture, homework, information, money, software