Commands: Tú, Usted & Ustedes — Essentials

Mandatos

Understand it · Entiéndelo

What you are learning · Qué vas a aprender

Core: give and understand common instructions to one familiar person (tú). Next: learn each positive command with its negative partner. Also recognize instructions to one person respectfully (usted) or a group (ustedes); you do not need to master every command form here.

English	Spanish
Open the door. (tú)	Abre la puerta. Abre: Verb — action or state
Do not open the door. (tú)	No abras la puerta. abras: Verb — action or state
Open the door. (usted)	Abra la puerta. Abra: Verb — action or state
Open the window, please. (tú)	Abre la ventana, por favor.
Close the window, please. (tú)	Cierra la ventana, por favor.
Speak slowly. (tú)	Habla despacio.
Do not speak so fast. (tú)	No hables tan rápido.
Eat here. (tú)	Come aquí.
Do not eat here. (tú)	No comas aquí.
Come here. (tú)	Ven aquí.
Do not come yet. (tú)	No vengas todavía.

Learn the pair first · Aprende primero el par

Read the positive and negative instructions together: Abre → No abras; Habla → No hables; Come → No comas; Ven → No vengas; Pon → No pongas. Regular affirmative tú commands match the present él/ella form. Recognize and reuse the negative and respectful pairs here; Course: Present Subjunctive Forms later explains their formation. Spanish come means “eat”; ven means “come”.

 © 2026 Mark Tervan. All rights reserved.

Commands: Tú, Usted & Ustedes — Essentials

Mandatos

Use it · Úsalo

Recognize your listener · Reconoce a tu interlocutor

English	Spanish
Open the book. (ustedes)	Abran el libro. Abran: Verb — action or state
Do not open the book. (ustedes)	No abran el libro. abran: Verb — action or state
Come in, please. (usted)	Pase, por favor.
Wait here, please. (usted)	Espere aquí, por favor.
Do not close the door. (usted)	No cierre la puerta.
Come in, please. (ustedes)	Pasen, por favor.
Wait here, please. (ustedes)	Esperen aquí, por favor.
Do not close the door. (ustedes)	No cierren la puerta.

Common mistake · Error común

Do not simply put no before an affirmative tú command: Abre → No abras.

Use it in real life · Úsalo en la vida real

Core task: give a family member three home instructions, including one negative instruction. Ask your partner to explain each action; alone, write each instruction and its intended action. Practice the open/close pairs in Home: Around the House & Repairs. Recognition extension: compare Pase / Pasen and Espere / Esperen. Which is for one visitor and which is for a group? Reuse the taught pairs before trying unfamiliar verbs.

Check and try again · Comprueba y vuelve a intentar

Possible core instructions: Abre la ventana. No comas aquí. Pon el libro aquí. Check the action, positive/negative meaning, and listener. Replace no abre with no abras and repeat the pair. Change an object or location on a second round. Recognition extension: Pase and Espere address one visitor as usted; Pasen and Esperen address a group. Success means a listener understands your familiar instructions, not that you can form every command.

Page 2 of 2 · v0.62.0 · © 2026 Mark Tervan. All rights reserved.