

Imperative

1. Formal Command

-en ending (*Sie* form) + the pronoun *Sie* after the verb

Nehmen Sie das Buch!	<i>Take the book!</i>
Kaufen Sie es!	<i>Buy it!</i>

2. Familiar Command - Singular

present tense form without the -st ending – **no** personal pronoun

komm!	<i>come!</i>
geh!	<i>go!</i>
trink!	<i>drink!</i>

Note: verbs that end in a -t or -d, or a consonant cluster like -fn, retain the additional -e that was added to facilitate pronunciation.¹

antworte!	<i>answer!</i>
rede!	<i>speak!</i>
öffne!	<i>open!</i>

Note on stem-changing verbs: verbs that have a vowel change from e > I or e > ie retain this change in the familiar singular command.

iss!	<i>eat!</i>
gib!	<i>give!</i>
sieh!	<i>look!</i>

However, verbs whose stem vowel changes from a > ä do not retain this change in the imperative.

fahr!	<i>drive!</i>
lauf!	<i>run!</i>

¹ You may also see an -e ending on other verbs in the command form, especially in conversational German, but it's optional and technically should only be added to verbs with a -t, -d or consonant cluster ending.

3. Familiar Command - Plural

same form as the *ihr* conjugation but without the personal pronoun

kauft!	<i>buy!</i>
antwortet!	<i>answer!</i>
lernt!	<i>study!</i>
esst!	<i>eat!</i>

4. Mild Commands ("let us")

first person plural (*wir*) with an inverted word order is used.

Gehen wir jetzt!	<i>Let's go now!</i>
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5. Command forms of *SEIN*

slightly irregular:

Seien Sie!	Sei!	Seid!	Seien wir!
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- Note on separable-prefix verbs: if there is a separable prefix attached to the verb, it functions in the normal manner and appears after the command form. This holds true for all command forms (*Sie, ihr, du, wir*):

Steh auf!	<i>Stand up!</i>
Kommen Sie bitte mit!	<i>Come along, please!</i>