

The imperative in French

(Giving orders)

The imperative is when you are telling someone to do something or giving instructions, e.g. Sit down, Open your books, Turn left.

The imperative is the “YOU” part of the verb. In French there are two ways of saying you - TU, when it applies to one person and VOUS when you are talking about a group or when you are being polite.

The VOUS command is formed by taking the verb, removing the ER, IR or RE ending and adding -EZ.

Section A

What do the following mean in English? Write out the French and the English in full.

1	Ouvrez le livre	A	<i>Listen to the tape</i>
2	Regardez la page 23	B	<i>Open the book</i>
3	Ecoutez la cassette	C	<i>Finish the homework</i>
4	Tournez à gauche	D	<i>Get on the bus</i>
5	Finiissez les devoirs	E	<i>Look at page 23</i>
6	Fermez la fenêtre	F	<i>Drink water</i>
7	Montez dans le bus	G	<i>Eat fruit</i>
8	Buvez de l' eau	H	<i>Turn left</i>
9	Mangez des fruits	I	<i>Stop the car</i>
10	Arrêtez la voiture	j	<i>Close the window</i>

Section B

Now make the following into orders:

REMEMBER that you remove the -ER, -IR or -RE and then add -EZ.

Example:

(écouter) la radio = listen to the radio

= ÉCOUTEZ LA RADIO

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| 1. (OUVRIR) la porte | = Open the door. |
| 2. (VENIR) ici | = Come here. |
| 3. (ACHETER) un billet | = Buy a ticket. |
| 4. (TROUVER) l' arrêt de bus | = Find the bus stop |
| 5. (ALLER) à la banque | = Go to the bank. |
| 6. (SORTIR) d' ici | = Get out of here. |
| 7. (TRAVERSER) la rue. | = Cross the road. |
| 8. (AJOUTER) du lait | = Add milk. |
| 9. (COUPER) l' oignon | = Chop the onion. |
| 10. (FOUETTER) les oeufs. | = Whisk the eggs. |



