

The Imperative

Learning about Sentences

Reading and Discussion

There are four types of sentences:

1. **Declarative sentences** or Statements tell us something or state a fact.
 - The game of Monopoly was invented in the 1930's.
2. **Interrogative sentences** ask a question.
 - Do you enjoy playing Monopoly?
3. **Exclamatory sentences** express strong emotion.
 - I own Park Place and Boardwalk!
4. **Imperative sentences** are the commanding sentence. They give a command.
 - Pay the rent now.

Imperative sentences can sometimes be a little confusing. You have learned that a sentence must have a subject and a verb. In imperative sentences the subject is often invisible! Let's look at some examples:

- Pay the rent now.
- Give me another hotel.
- Pass out the money.

Who or what is the subject of these sentences? Remember two basic facts.

1. An imperative sentence is a sentence that gives a command.
2. A command is an order given to someone.

The subject of most imperative sentences is you, so the sentence is really saying:

- **You** pay the rent now.
- **You** give me another hotel.
- **You** pass out the money.

When **you** is used as an invisible or unwritten subject it is called "you understood". It means that the reader understands the subject is you.

Imperative sentences begin with a **capital letter** and end with a **period**, just like declarative sentences.

Name _____

Date _____

Activity A: An imperative sentence is a commanding sentence. The subject is often “you understood”. Rewrite the following sentences as imperative sentences.

1. You pass the crackers please. _____
2. You share the cookies. _____
3. You do your homework. _____
4. You feed the goldfish. _____
5. You water the plants. _____
6. You pick up the toys. _____

Activity B: Imperative sentences, like other sentences, must have a **verb**. Even if the subject is “you understood”, we can always find the verb in an imperative sentence. The verb is the **action word** that tells what the subject did, does, or is. Find and underline the verbs in the following imperative sentences.

1. Pass out the money for the game.
2. Share the cupcakes.
3. Feed the puppy soon.
4. Wear a raincoat today.
5. Smile at Grandma.
6. Close the door.
7. Finish your homework.
8. Clean up your mess.
9. Write neatly on the paper.
10. Open the cabinet carefully.

Activity C: What kind of sentence am I? If the sentence is imperative, write an **I** on the blank line. If the sentence is declarative, write a **D** on the blank line. Hint: a declarative sentence will have a subject you can see.

1. _____ John played Monopoly for six hours.
2. _____ Play longer and win the championship.
3. _____ Buy hotels, earn money, be a Monopoly champion.
4. _____ Monopoly is a fun game to play.
5. _____ Be a winner.

Name _____

Date _____

Answer Key

Activity A

1. Pass the crackers please.
2. Share the cookies.
3. Do your homework.
4. Feed the goldfish.
5. Water the plants.
6. Pick up the toys.

Activity B

1. Pass out the money for the game.
2. Share the cupcakes.
3. Feed the puppy soon.
4. Wear a raincoat today.
5. Smile at Grandma.
6. Close the door.
7. Finish your homework.
8. Clean up your mess.
9. Write neatly on the paper.
10. Open the cabinet carefully.

Activity C

1. 1. D John played Monopoly for six hours.
2. 2. I Play longer and win the championship.
3. 3. I Buy hotels, earn money, be a Monopoly champion.
4. 4. D Monopoly is a fun game to play.
5. 5. I Be a winner.