

Polite Commands

Polite commands (Usted form) in Spanish are formed by taking the present tense “yo” form and changing it as follows:

-ar verbs: to “-e” for Ud. and to “-en” for Uds.

-er verbs: to “-a” for Ud. and to “-an” for Uds.

-ir verbs:

Let’s take a look at how to make some polite commands:

	Present tense “Yo” form	Polite Commands
caer , to fall	caigo	caiga Ud., caigan Uds.
comer , to eat	como	coma Ud., coman Uds.
decir , to say, to tell	digo	diga Ud., digan Uds.
escribir , to write	escribo	escriba Ud., escriban Uds.
hacer , to do, to make	hago	haga Ud., hagan Uds.
huir , to flee	huyo	huya Ud., huyan Uds.
oír , to hear	oigo	oiga Ud., oigan Uds.
poner , to put, to place	pongo	ponga Ud., pongan Uds.
salir , to leave, to go out	salgo	salga Ud., salgan Uds.
tener , to have	tengo	tenga Ud., tengan Uds.
tomar , to take	tomo	tome Ud., tomen Uds.
traducir , to translate	traduzco	traduzca Ud., traduzcan Uds.
traer , to bring	traigo	traiga Ud., traigan Uds.
venir , to come	vengo	venga Ud., vengan Uds.
ver , to see	veo	vea Ud., vean Uds.

*The following verbs have irregular polite commands:

dar, to give

dé Ud., **den** Uds.

ir, to go

vaya Ud., **vayan** Uds.

ser, to be

sea Ud., **sean** Uds.

Reflexive Formal Commands

When using polite commands (Ud. or Uds. form) involving reflexive verbs, the placement of the reflexive pronoun (*me, te, se, nos, os, se*) depends on whether the command is affirmative or negative.

If the command is **affirmative**, we **attach the pronoun to the end** of the command word itself.

For singulars (Ud.): Wash your hands! → ¡**Lávese** Ud. las manos!
 Brush your teeth! → ¡**Cepílese** Ud. los dientes!

For plurals (Uds.): Wash your hands! → ¡**Lávense** Uds. las manos!
 Brush your teeth! → ¡**Cepíllense** Uds. los dientes!

*Note that when we attach the pronoun to the command, we must put an accent over the vowel in third-to-last syllable (in **bold** above).
(This is similar to the accents in “-ing” words with attached pronouns)

Now, if the command is **negative**, we **place the pronoun in front** of the command word.

For singulars (Ud.): Don't wash your hands! → ¡**No se lave** Ud. las manos!
 Don't brush your teeth! → ¡**No se cepille** Ud. los dientes!

For plurals (Uds.): Don't wash your hands! → ¡**No se laven** Uds. las manos!
 Don't brush your teeth! → ¡**No se cepillen** Uds. los dientes!

¡PRACTICAMOS! – Write the following **formal** commands:

- 1.) Get up! ¡Levántese! (levantarse, Ud.)
- 2.) Don't get up! ¡No se levante! (levantarse, Ud.)
- 3.) Get up! ¡Levántense! (levantarse, Uds.)
- 4.) Don't get up! ¡No se levanten! (levantarse, Uds.)