

To form an informal command in Spanish, we take the yo form of the verb, drop the “o” and for “-AR” verbs add “-es” and for “-ER” and “-IR” verbs add “-as”. This particularly affects irregular yo verbs.

Formula: No + yo drop o + add opposite ending

Examples: hablar →no hablo → drop “o” → ¡No hables! = Don’t speak!  
 Correr →no corro → drop “o” → ¡No corras! = Don’t run!  
 Vivir →no vivo → drop “o” → ¡No vivas! = Don’t live!  
 Tener →no tengo → drop “o” → ¡No tengas! = Don’t have!

Try it!

- |             |   |       |   |       |   |       |
|-------------|---|-------|---|-------|---|-------|
| 1. mirar    | → | _____ | → | _____ | = | _____ |
| 2. venir    | → | _____ | → | _____ | = | _____ |
| 3. comprar  | → | _____ | → | _____ | = | _____ |
| 4. salir    | → | _____ | → | _____ | = | _____ |
| 5. escribir | → | _____ | → | _____ | = | _____ |
| 6. caer     | → | _____ | → | _____ | = | _____ |
| 7. abrir    | → | _____ | → | _____ | = | _____ |
| 8. conocer  | → | _____ | → | _____ | = | _____ |
| 9. comenzar | → | _____ | → | _____ | = | _____ |
| 10. beber   | → | _____ | → | _____ | = | _____ |
| 11. limpiar | → | _____ | → | _____ | = | _____ |
| 12. tomar   | → | _____ | → | _____ | = | _____ |
| 13. leer    | → | _____ | → | _____ | = | _____ |
| 14. cantar  | → | _____ | → | _____ | = | _____ |
| 15. hacer   | → | _____ | → | _____ | = | _____ |
| 16. poner   | → | _____ | → | _____ | = | _____ |
| 17. traer   | → | _____ | → | _____ | = | _____ |

Direct object pronouns come after the “no” in negative commands. Remember, Negatives precede (NP).

The direct object pronouns answer 2 questions, “Who?” and “What?”

The direct object pronouns are:

Me = me	Nos = us
Te = you	Os = y’all
Lo/la = him, her, it	Los/las = them

Look at some examples:

Don’t buy the book → no comprar el libro → no compres el libro → ¡No lo compres!

Don’t write the letter → no escribir la carta → no escribas la carta → ¡No la escribas!

Don’t open the door → no abrir la puerta → no abras la puerta → ¡No la abras!

Don’t set the table → no poner la mesa → no pongas la mesa → ¡No la pongas!

Negative commands worksheet  
Spanish 2

Nombre \_\_\_\_\_  
Fecha \_\_\_\_\_ Clase \_\_\_\_\_

Try it!

1. Don't bring the food → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_
2. Don't buy the book → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_
3. Don't open the windows → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_
4. Don't bring the car → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_
5. Don't give the pen → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_
6. Don't sell the magazines → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_
7. Don't look for the dog → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_

Irregular informal negative commands have a beat that helps you remember them

The "Beat":

Dar	→	No des	→	to give
Estar	→	No estés	→	to be
Ir	→	No vayas	→	to go
Saber	→	No sepas	→	to know info
Ser	→	No seas	→	to be
Ver	→	No veas	→	to see

Try it!

1. Don't be here! \_\_\_\_\_
2. Don't go home! \_\_\_\_\_
3. Don't know the truth! \_\_\_\_\_
4. Don't give kisses! \_\_\_\_\_
5. Don't see him! \_\_\_\_\_
6. Don't be crazy! \_\_\_\_\_

When you have irregular informal commands, the direct objects precede in the same manner as before.

Example:

Don't give money to him! = Don't give it to him! → ¡No des el dinero a él! = ¡No lo des a él!

Try it!

1. Don't know the truth! = \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
2. Don't see the movie = \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_