

Usted & Ustedes Commands

Look at the difference between the following sentences:

I read it.

He listens to music.

Read it.

Listen to the music.

Notice that the first sentences state a fact.

In the second of each pair, a command is given (to the “understood you”).

In Spanish, commands have their own conjugation.

Today you will learn how to form the **Ud. & Uds.** commands, those that you would command using a formal tone -- to adults not in your immediate family, or anyone that you do not have a relaxed, casual relationship with. Ud. is the formal, singular “you”, and Uds. is the plural “you all”.

To form Ud. commands, take the ending off the **yo form** of the present tense of the verb and add:

-e for -ar verbs, and

-a for -er or -ir verbs

To form Uds. commands, add a **-n** to the above.



Let's see how this works:

andar to walk

Ande rápido. (You) Walk fast.

Anden rápido. (You all) Walk fast.

escribir to write

Escriba esto. (You) Write this.

Escriban esto. (You all) Write this.

Practice by forming the Ud. and Uds. commands for these verbs:

ayudar

estudiar

correr

escribir



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There are exceptions!

For verbs ending in -car, change the c to qu:

busque(n) practique(n)

For verbs ending in -zar, change the z to c:

empezar (ie) = empiece(n)

For verbs ending in -gar, add a u after the g to keep it hard:

llegue(n) entregue(n)

Also, MEMORIZE these five irregular Ud. and Uds. command verbs:

ir = vaya(n)

ser = sea(n)

saber = sepa(n)

estar = esté(n)

dar = dé, den



Practice translating these sentences:

Go there.

Arrive at eight.

Give me that.

Be polite.

Know how to swim.

Look for my socks.

