

## Grammar

This lesson plan is for a 50 minute class of Spanish 508k (beginner-intermediate). The pre-activity is planned to start raising their metalinguistic awareness. Due to their basic level, is better to do this in English as a starting point. As we discussed in class, the learners generate routes based on their idiosyncratic constraints. Using their English metalinguistic knowledge is a very powerful tool for the instructor.

The first activity is a warm-up activity to review pronouns and to slowly introduce students to the two possible singular commands in Spanish: formal and informal. Activities 2 and 3 are designed to teach them the use of informal and formal singular commands and plural commands the way is normatively correct. Following this lesson, an exercise about making commands using the “we” form for oral purposes must be planned. We had to leave it out due to time constraints. Clarifying this use of the “we” form integrates pragmatics into grammar teaching.

By writing a short introduction to each activity, working with texts (advice and a recipe), study them, coming up with a hypothesis and finally testing it by producing, we tried to create explicit instructions so that at the end students will grasp the what, how and why of grammar rules and their meanings. Specifically the last step of the activities 2, 3, and 4 allow restructuring to happen for students. The instructor must seize this opportunity to intervene.

The last exercise is a self-assessment oriented task. Instead of having the instructor summarize this very new material, the student will have the opportunity to have an active role in planning their quiz. Simultaneously, it gives the instructor the chance to have a better idea of what have they grasped, and where to reinforce.

**Objective:** to learn how to address commands in Spanish.

INSTRUCTIONS	TIME
Pre-activity	2 min
Activity 1. Pronouns	2 min
Activity 2. Informal commands	20 min
Activity 3. Formal commands	10 min
Activity 4. Plural commands	5 min
Activity 5. Assessment for learning	10 min

**Subskills:** food related vocabulary, pronouns.

## ¡APRENDE A DAR INSTRUCCIONES!

### Pre activity (2 minutes)

*The imperative mood is a verb form in English that speakers can use to make direct commands, express requests, and grant or deny permission. Could you write down at least three examples?*

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### Activity 1. ¿A quién le damos órdenes? (2 minutos)

*As you already know, in Spanish you must conjugate verbs according to the pronoun. We will briefly review personal pronouns and their uses before starting to study the making of commands.*

*Paso 1.* In Spanish, if you want to make direct commands, express requests, and grant or deny permission, which pronouns could you use? Who can you give orders to? If it makes sense to order the following people to do something, write a check in the box beside the person's pronoun.

PRONOUNS	CAN YOU GIVE ORDERS TO ____?
Yo	
Tú	
Usted	
Él/ ella	
Nosotros	
Ustedes	
Ellos	

*Paso 2.* Which is the formal pronoun on that chart? \_\_\_\_\_

### Activity 2. Informal singular commands (20 minutes)

*In Spanish, for the second person singular, we can make informal or formal commands. To make informal ones, we use the informal pronoun “tú”.*

*Paso 1.* You and your roommate are cooking dinner. Your roommate has some advice for you. Would you follow these good recommendations? Discuss it with your partner. Write “yes” or “no”.

	¿Sí o no?	CONSEJO
1		<b>No cortes</b> con cuchillo las zanahorias, córtalas con una cuchara.
2		<b>Prepara</b> salsa de tomate para toda la semana. <b>Usa</b> una parte y <b>congela</b> la otra.
3		<b>No guardes</b> nada caliente en el frigorífico.
4		<b>Rompe</b> la lechuga con las manos.
5		<b>Aprende</b> a sustituir la sal por especias naturales.
6		<b>No metas</b> nada sucio en el lavaplatos.
7		<b>No vivas</b> sólo de latas.
8		<b>Parte</b> el ajo bien finito.
9		<b>No partas</b> cebollas si no quieres llorar...
10		<b>Bate</b> los huevos para preparar huevos fritos.

*Paso 2.* To make informal positive commands and to make informal negative commands is very different in Spanish. Let's start by identifying the infinitive form of these verbs. "Copy-paste" the command form as you have it in *Paso 1* in the appropriate box.

	MANDATOS POSITIVOS	MANDATOS NEGATIVOS: no + verbo
<b>AR</b>		
<b>ER</b>		
<b>IR</b>		

*Paso 3.* According to the chart of *Paso 2*, how do you form positive informal commands for each infinitive ending? And negative informal commands? Take a look at the verb stem. Write the formula down for each infinitive ending.

	MANDATOS POSITIVOS	MANDATOS NEGATIVOS: no + verbo
<b>AR</b>		
<b>ER</b>		

<b>IR</b>		
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*Paso 4.* Let's go back to *Paso 1*. At least three pieces of advice are wrong. Could you write the corrected version? Follow the formula you set up in *Paso 3*.

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*Paso 5.* Be prepared to share your corrected versions with the class.

**Activity 3. Formal singular commands with “usted” (10 min)**

*Now we will focus on formal commands, which means you have to use “usted”.*

*Paso 1.* In written Spanish you will probably find more formal than informal commands for the second person singular if the writer is not trying to relate to young people. For example, in your grandmother's cookbook, you can find recipes written like this one:

1. Caliente la sartén.
2. Revuelva los huevos.
3. Añada los huevos batidos.
4. Eche sal y pimienta.
5. Sirva caliente.

*Paso 2.* Obviously you are preparing eggs! What kind of eggs? Choose among the following options and check the appropriate box.

	Huevos fritos
	Huevos a la ranchera
	Omelette
	Huevos benedictinos
	Huevos revueltos
	Huevos duros

*Paso 3.* This recipe is written using formal commands. Identify the infinitive of these verbs, then copy-paste the verbs in the following chart.

	<b>MANDATOS FORMALES (usted)</b>
<b>AR</b>	
<b>ER</b>	
<b>IR</b>	

*Paso 4.* How do you form singular formal commands? Be prepared to explain this to your classmates.

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**Activity 4. Commands using “ustedes”. (5 min)**

*Using “ustedes” for commands is very common in written Spanish. In spoken Spanish, we tend to use “we” in the present to soften commands.*

*Paso 1.* Take a look to the following chart.

	MANDATOS con “Ustedes”
AR	Prepar- en
ER	Com- an
IR	Dig- an

*Paso 2.* Go back to “Activity 2. Paso 2”. How do you like your eggs? Write the recipe below using the plural command form.

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*Paso 5.* Be prepared to share your recipe with the class.

**ACTIVIDAD 5. Assessment for learning**

*Tomorrow you will have a quiz on formal and informal singular commands, and plural commands. What do you think that quiz should look like? Be prepared to share your input with the class.*

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