14.2 Nosotros/as commands

ANTE TODO You have already learned familiar (tú) commands and formal (usted/ustedes) commands. You will now learn nosotros/as commands, which are used to give orders or suggestions that include yourself and other people.

Nosotros/as commands correspond to the English Let’s.

Both affirmative and negative nosotros/as commands are generally formed by using the first-person plural form of the present subjunctive.

Crucemos la calle. No crucemos la calle.
Let’s cross the street. Let’s not cross the street.

The affirmative Let’s + [verb] command may also be expressed with vamos a + [infinitive]. However, remember that vamos a + [infinitive] can also mean we are going to (do something). Context and tone of voice determine which meaning is being expressed.

Vamos a cruzar la calle.
Let’s cross the street.

Vamos a trabajar mucho.
We’re going to work a lot.

To express Let’s go, the present indicative form of ir (vamos) is used, not the subjunctive. For the negative command, however, the subjunctive is used.

Vamos a la pescadería.
No vayamos a la pescadería.

Object pronouns are always attached to affirmative nosotros/as commands. A written accent is added to maintain the original stress.

Firmemos el cheque.
Escribamos a Ana y Raúl.
Firmémonos.
Escribámonos.

Object pronouns are placed in front of negative nosotros/as commands.

No les paguemos el préstamo.
No se lo digamos a ellos.

¡INTÉNTALO! Indica los mandatos afirmativos y negativos de la primera persona del plural (nosotros/as) de estos verbos.

1. estudiar ________________
2. cenar ________________
3. leer ________________
4. decidir ________________
5. decir ________________
6. cerrar ________________
7. levantarse ________________
8. irse ________________

CONSULTA Remember that stem-changing –ir verbs have an additional stem change in the nosotros/as and vosotros/as forms of the present subjunctive. To review these forms, see Estructura 12.3, p. 423.

¡ATENCIÓN! When nos or se is attached to an affirmative nosotros/as command, the final –s is dropped from the verb ending.

Sentémonos allí.
Démosela ella.
Mandémonos a ellos.

... The nosotros/as command form of irse is vayamos. Its negative form is no nos vayamos.

recursos

Indica los mandatos afirmativos y negativos de la primera persona del plural (nosotros/as) de estos verbos.