

What is the German Imperative (du Form)?

Worksheet

The German imperative (du form) is the command verb without the pronoun 'du': Komm! (Come!), Iss! (Eat!), Schreib! (Write!). Regular verbs drop the '-en' ending and add '-e' (optional).

Questions

1. Form du imperative from 'schlafen' (to sleep).
A) Schlafe!
B) Schlaf!
C) Schlafst!
D) Schlafet!
2. Which is the correct du imperative for 'geben' (to give)?
A) Gib!
B) Gibst!
C) Gebe!
D) Gebt!
3. What's the main difference between du and Sie imperative?
A) No difference, they're the same
B) du is informal (drop -en), Sie is polite (add -en)
C) du uses -e, Sie uses -t
D) du is older, Sie is modern
4. 'Lies das Buch!' (Read the book!) — which form?
A) Sie imperative
B) du imperative
C) wir imperative
D) plural imperative
5. Give the du imperative for 'machen' (to make).
6. Command 'Schreib einen Brief!' — what's the infinitive?
7. Form du imperative for 'sprechen' (to speak).
8. Define: What is the German du imperative?
9. Define: How to form du imperative from infinitive?
10. Define: When do you use du imperative vs. Sie imperative?

Answer Key

1. B) Schlaf! — Remove -en from 'schlafen' → schlaf, and you get 'Schlaf!' (the -e is optional and often dropped casually).
2. A) Gib! — 'Geben' is a strong verb: e→i in du form. So 'Gib!' is correct.
3. B) du is informal (drop -en), Sie is polite (add -en) — du = casual, family/friends; Sie = formal, strangers/elders.
4. B) du imperative — 'Lies' is du form (from 'lesen'). It's directed at one person informally.
5. Infinitive: machen Remove -en: mach Add -e (optional): mache Answer: Mach! or Mache! (Do it!)
6. Imperative: Schreib Add -en → schreiben (infinitive) So the command 'Schreib!' means Write!
7. Infinitive: sprechen Remove -en: sprich Add -e: spreche Answer: Sprich! (the 'e' changes to 'i' — strong verb) or Sprecht for plural
8. Informal command to one person: Komm! (Come!), Iss! (Eat!), Schreib! (Write!)
9. Remove -en and optionally add -e: kommen → Komm(e)!
10. Use du for friends, family, kids (informal). Use Sie for strangers, elders (polite).

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