RULE SHEET

The imperative



Use the **imperative** for instructions, rules and requests. **Positive**: the verb without to and without a subject: **Open** your books. **Negative**: **don't** + verb: **Don't** run! **Polite**: **Please** sit down. / Sit down, **please**. **Suggestion**: **let's** + verb: **Let's** start!

Classroom English

Do this!	Don't do this!
Open your books.	**Don't talk**, please.
Listen to the story.	**Don't look** at your neighbour's paper.
Work with a partner.	**Don't shout**.
Put your hand up.	**Don't eat** in class.
Close the door, please.	**Don't be** late!

Useful pairs

Verb	Opposite
open · stand up · take out	close · sit down · put away
come in · switch on	go out · switch off

More examples

- **Be** quiet, please. · **Don't be** sad!
- **Let's** make a cake!

Watch out! No subject: **Open** the window. (not: You open the window.) · No to, no -ing: **Sit** down. (not: To sit down. / Sitting down.) · Negative: **Don't** run! (not: No run! / Not run!) · With be: **Don't be** late! (not: Don't late! / Not be late!) · **Let's**, not Lets. · Signs: **No running!** is not the imperative.

PRACTICE 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Classroom English

1 Match the opposites.

1. ☐ Open
2. ☐ Stand up
3. ☐ Take out
4. ☐ Come in
5. ☐ Switch on

a. Put away
b. Close
c. Switch off
d. Sit down
e. Look
f. Go out

2 Complete the instructions. Use each verb in the box once.

open	listen	write	close	put	look	sit	take

1. _____ your books, please.
2. _____ to the story.
3. _____ your name on the paper.
4. It's cold. _____ the window, please.
5. _____ your hand up.
6. _____ at the board.
7. _____ down, please.
8. _____ out your pencil case.