

## UNIT 12

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### GIVING ORDERS - THE IMPERATIVE

#### **12.1 When the Imperative is used**

The Imperative is used not only to issue **commands**, both **positive** and **negative**, but also to make **requests**.

There is a range of subtleties between these two poles which encompass different human needs. These include strident demands for God's attention, abject cries for help, exhortations to give praise, invitations to approach the throne of grace etc.

The Imperative can be regarded as a two-way process of communication between the supernatural and the natural with, on the one hand, commandments and exhortations coming from God and, on the other hand, requests of the faithful on earth to God, Our Lady and the saints in Heaven.

#### **12.2 THE IMPERATIVE OF ACTIVE VERBS**

We normally think of the Imperative as addressed to the Second Person ('you') either Singular or Plural. Here are the regular forms for the four Conjugations of the Active Verbs:

IMPERATIVE OF ACTIVE VERBS		
Conjugation	Singular	Plural
1st : <i>orare</i> - to pray	<i>ora!</i> - pray!	<i>orate!</i> - pray!
2nd : <i>videre</i> - to see	<i>vide!</i> - see!	<i>videte!</i> - see!
3rd : <i>suscipere</i> - to accept	<i>suscipe!</i> - accept!	<i>suscipite!</i> - accept!
4th : <i>venire</i> - to come	<i>veni!</i> - come!	<i>venite!</i> - come!

#### **Exercise 1**

Translate the following :

 1. *ora pro nobis*

 2. *Orate fratres*

 3. *Libera nos, Domine*

 4. *Veni, Sancte Spiritus*

 5. *Venite adoremus*

 6. *Suscipe, Sancte Pater*

 7. *Salva nos Christe Salvator*

 8. *Cantate Domino, alleluia*

#### **12.3 Notable exceptions**

A few Verbs differ slightly from this pattern by dropping the final vowel in the Singular :

VERB	SINGULAR	PLURAL
<i>facere</i> - to do/to make	<i>fac!</i> - do! make!	<i>facite</i> - do! make!
<i>ducere</i> - to lead	<i>duc!</i> - lead!	<i>ducite!</i> - lead!
<i>dicere</i> - to say	<i>dic!</i> - say!	<i>dicite!</i> say!
<i>ferre</i> - to bring	<i>fer!</i> - bring!	<i>ferte!</i>

*Hoc fac et vives* - This do and thou shalt live.

Dic nobis, Maria - Tell us, Mary



Note the **COMPOUND** forms of these Verbs which have a special prefix to denote a distinctive meaning :

- **BENE-** :

benefacere (to benefit, lit. ‘to do good’) gives *benefac* and *benefacite* :

benefacite his qui oderunt vos - do good to those who hate you

benedicere (to bless, lit. ‘to say well’) gives *benedic* and *benedicite* :

Benedic, anima mea, Domino

Bless the Lord, O my soul

Benedicite, gentes, Dominum Deum nostrum

Bless the Lord our God, O ye peoples

- **AU-**

auferre (to take away) gives *aufer* :

Aufer a nobis, quaesumus, Domine, iniquitates nostras

Take away from us our sins, we beseech Thee, O Lord

- **DE-**

deducere (to lead) gives *deduc*:

deduc me in via aeterna - lead me in the way everlasting

## 2.4 Ready Reckoner of common Verbs in the Imperative

### 1st Conjugation

VERB	SINGULAR	PLURAL	VERB	SINGULAR	PLURAL
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<i>dare (give)</i>	<i>da</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>exultare (exult)</i>	<i>exulta</i>	<i>exultate</i>
<i>judicare (judge)</i>	<i>judica</i>	<i>judicate</i>	<i>cantare (sing)</i>	<i>canta</i>	<i>cantate</i>
<i>liberare (free)</i>	<i>libera</i>	<i>liberate</i>	<i>jubilare (rejoice)</i>	<i>jubila</i>	<i>jubilate</i>
<i>nuntiare (speak)</i>	<i>nuntia</i>	<i>nuntiate</i>	<i>probare (test, try)</i>	<i>proba</i>	<i>probate</i>
<i>lavare (wash)</i>	<i>lava</i>	<i>lavate</i>	<i>laudare (praise)</i>	<i>lauda</i>	<i>laudate</i>
<i>pulsare (knock)</i>	<i>pulsa</i>	<i>pulsate</i>	<i>honorare (honour)</i>	<i>honora</i>	<i>honorate</i>
<i>ambulare (walk)</i>	<i>ambula</i>	<i>ambulate</i>	<i>manducare (eat)</i>	<i>manduca</i>	<i>manducate</i>

## 2nd Conjugation

VERB	SINGULAR	PLURAL	VERB	SINGULAR	PLURAL
<i>implere (fill)</i>	<i>implete</i>	<i>implete</i>	<i>gaudere (rejoice)</i>	<i>gaude</i>	<i>gaudete</i>
<i>flere (weep)</i>	<i>fle</i>	<i>flete</i>	<i>tenere (hold)</i>	<i>tene</i>	<i>tenete</i>
<i>videre (see)</i>	<i>vide</i>	<i>videte</i>	<i>sedere (sit)</i>	<i>sede</i>	<i>sedete</i>
<i>prandere (lunch)</i>	<i>prande</i>	<i>prandete</i>			

## 3rd Conjugation

VERB	SINGULAR	PLURAL	VERB	SINGULAR	PLURAL
<i>respicere (look)</i>	<i>respice</i>	<i>respicite</i>	<i>convertere (turn)</i>	<i>converte</i>	<i>convertite</i>
<i>diligere (love)</i>	<i>dilige</i>	<i>diligite</i>	<i>quaerere (seek)</i>	<i>quaere</i>	<i>quaerite</i>
<i>surgere (rise)</i>	<i>surge</i>	<i>surgite</i>	<i>petere (ask)</i>	<i>pete</i>	<i>petite</i>
<i>mittere (cast, put)</i>	<i>mitte</i>	<i>mittite</i>	<i>accipere (take)</i>	<i>accipe</i>	<i>accipite</i>
<i>absolvere (quit)</i>	<i>absolve</i>	<i>absolvite</i>	<i>vadere (go)</i>	<i>vade</i>	<i>vadite</i>
<i>tollere (lift, carry)</i>	<i>tolle</i>	<i>tollite</i>	<i>sapere (be wise)</i>	<i>sape</i>	<i>sapite</i>
<i>accendere (kindle)</i>	<i>accende</i>	<i>accendite</i>	<i>occidere (kill)</i>	<i>occide</i>	<i>occidite</i>
<i>bibere (drink)</i>	<i>bibe</i>	<i>bibite</i>			

## 4th Conjugation

VERB	SINGULAR	PLURAL	VERB	SINGULAR	PLURAL
<i>audire (hear)</i>	<i>audi</i>	<i>audite</i>	<i>exaudire (answer)</i>	<i>exaudi</i>	<i>exaudite</i>
<i>haurire</i>	<i>hauri</i>	<i>haurite</i>	<i>custodire (guard)</i>	<i>custodi</i>	<i>custodite</i>
<i>ire (go)</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>ite</i>	<i>aperire (open)</i>	<i>aperi</i>	<i>aperite</i>

## Vocabulary

*malum, -i* - evil, perversity  
*ago, agere, egi, actum* (3) - to act  
*oppressus, -a, um* - oppressed  
*pupillus, -i* – orphan, ward

*quiesco, -ere, -evi, -etum* (3) - to leave off, cease  
*perverse* - perversely  
*subvenio, -ire, -veni, -ventum* (4) - to assist (with Dat.)  
*vidua, -ae* - widow

## Reading Practice

## Lectio Isaiae Prophetae

*auferte malum cogitationum vestrarum ab oculis meis : quiescite agere perverse, discite benefacere: quaerite judicium, subvenite oppresso, judicate pupillo, defendite viduam*

take away the evil of your devices from My eyes : cease to do perversity, learn to do well : seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge for the fatherless, defend the widow

### Vocabulary

<i>defunctus, -a, -um</i> - deceased, departed (life)	<i>navigium, -i</i> - ship
<i>pasco, -ere, pavi, pastum</i> (3) - to feed, esp. cattle	<i>ovis, -is</i> - sheep
<i>in dexteram</i> - on the right hand side	<i>rete, -is</i> - net
<i>transeo, -ire, -ivi, -itum</i> (4) - to come, go across	<i>vado, -ere</i> (3) - to go, walk
<i>concupisco, -ere, -pivi, -pitum</i> (3) - to desire eagerly	<i>jugum, -i</i> - yoke
<i>disco, -ere, didici</i> (3) - to learn	<i>propitius, -a, um</i> - merciful
<i>serpens, -entis</i> - serpent	<i>columba, -ae</i> - dove
<i>os, oris</i> - mouth	<i>gratias agere</i> - to give thanks
<i>intermissio, -ionis</i> - respite, interruption	

### Reading Practice

*Si diligis me, Simon Petre, pasce agnos meos,  
pasce oves meas*

If thou lovest Me, Simon Peter, feed My lambs, feed My sheep

*Si diligitis me, mandata mea servate*

If you love me, keep my commandments

*Transite ad me omnes qui concupisicitis me*

Come to Me, all ye that desire Me

*Benigne fac, Domine, in bona voluntate*

Deal (lit. do) favourably, O Lord, in Thy good will

*Tolle quod tuum est, et vade*

Take what is thine, and go thy way

*Tollite jugum meum super vos et discite a me*

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me

*Omnia probate : quod bonum est tenete*

Try all things : hold on to that which is good

*Eia, ergo, Advocata nostra, illos tuos misericordes  
oculos ad nos converte*

Turn, then, Most Gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us

*Mater Verbi..audi propitia et exaudi*

Mother of the Word Incarnate, in thy mercy hear and answer me

*Lauda, Jerusalem, Dominum : Lauda Deum tuum,  
Sion*

Praise the Lord, Jerusalem : praise thy God, O Sion.

*Ite, missa est*

Go, the Mass is ended.

*Aperi, Domine, os meum*

Open Thou my mouth, O Lord

*Semper gaudete. Sine intermissione orate. In  
omnibus gratias agite.*

Always rejoice. Pray without ceasing. In all things give thanks

### Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks using one of the following words :

<i>converte</i>	<i>absolve</i>	<i>mittite</i>	<i>tolle</i>	<i>nuntiate</i>	<i>nuntiate</i>
<i>custodi</i>	<i>cantate</i>	<i>da</i>	<i>quaerite</i>	<i>benedicite</i>	<i>ambula</i>

1. \_\_\_\_\_, Domine, animas omnium fidelium  
*defunctorum*

Absolve, O Lord, the souls of all the faithful departed

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Dominum dum inveniri potest

Seek the Lord while He may be found

3. \_\_\_\_\_ in dexteram navigii rete

Cast the net on the right side of the ship

4. \_\_\_\_\_ *Domino, et \_\_\_\_\_ nomen ejus*
5. *bene \_\_\_\_\_ de die in diem salutare ejus*
6. *Domine, \_\_\_\_\_ mihi hanc aquam*
7. \_\_\_\_\_ *luctum nostrum in gaudium*
8. \_\_\_\_\_ *me, Domine, ut pupillam oculi*
9. \_\_\_\_\_ *grabatum tuum, et \_\_\_\_\_*

Sing to the Lord, and bless His Name  
show forth His salvation from day to day  
Sir, give me that water  
Turn our mourning into joy  
Keep me, Lord, as the apple of Thine eye  
Take up thy bed, and walk

### Vocabulary

*grabatus, -i* - bed, couch  
*architricinus, -i* - head caterer  
*cito* - quickly  
*primus, -a -um* - the first  
*annulus, - i* - ring, circle  
*vitulus, -i* - calf  
*occido, -ere, -idi, -isum* - to kill, fell

*hydria, -ae* - water pot  
*accendo, -ere, -endi, -ensum* - to set fire to  
*stola, -ae* - robe  
*induo, -ere, -dui, -dutum* - to clothe, cover  
*calceamentum, -i* - shoe, footwear  
*sagino, -are, -avi, -atum* - to fatten

**Exercise 3** Applying your knowledge of Verb forms and Vocabulary set out in this Unit, make use of the context of these extracts to translate the following :

1. At the Marriage at Cana Jesus gave these instructions :

*Implete hydrias aqua.  
Haurite nunc, et fertre architricino.*

2. An invitation in Psalm lxx invites us :

*Jubilate Deo omnis terra : psalmum dicite nomini ejus : venite et audite*

3. The father of the Prodigal Son gave this list of orders to his servants :

*Cito proferte stolam primam, et induite eum, et date annulum in manum ejus, et calceamenta in pedes ejus : et adducite vitulum saginatum, et occidite*

4. A well-known prayer to the Holy Ghost :

*Veni, Sancte Spiritus, reple tuorum corda fidelium,  
et tui amoris in eis ignem accende*

5. The Woman at the Well said to her neighbours :

*Venite, et videte hominem qui dixit mihi omnia quaecumque (whatever) feci*

6. At the Consecration of the Host the priest says :

*Accipite, et manducate ex hoc omnes*

7. At the Conecration of the wine the priest says :

*Accipite, et bibite ex eo omnes*

8. What punishment was to be meted out to the guest without a wedding garment?

*Mittite eum in tenebris exteriores*

9. What three things did Jesus say to encourage us to pray ?

*Petite et dabitur vobis : quaerite et invenietis : pulsate et aperietur vobis*

10. The Fourth Commandment :

*Honora patrem tuum et matrem tuam*

### Vocabulary

<i>quoniam</i> - for, because	<i>sursum</i> - above, on high
<i>foras</i> – forth, out	<i>sollo, -ere, solvi, solutum</i> (3) - to loose, set free
<i>sino, -ere, sivi, situm</i> (3) - to let, allow	<i>abeo, abire, -ivi, -itum</i> (4) - to go, depart
<i>sapio, -ere, -ivi</i> (3) - to be wise to	<i>omnia</i> - all things, everything
<i>volatilis, -e</i> - winged ( <i>volatilia</i> - birds, lit. ‘winged things’)	<i>dolosus, -a, -um</i> - deceitful
<i>discerno, -ere, -crevi, -cretum</i> (3)- to distinguish, set apart	<i>iniquus, -a, -um</i> - wicked
<i>eruo, -ere, erui, -erutum</i> (3) - to snatch, pluck away	<i>emitto, -ere, -isi, issuum</i> (3) - to send forth

### Exercise 4 Translate the following :

1. *Proba me Deus, et scito cor meum*
2. *Omnia probate. Quod bonum est tenete.*
3. *Gaude, Virgo Maria.*
4. *Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico gaudete*
5. *Dealba me, Domine, et munda cor meum*
6. *Custodi animam meam, quoniam sanctus sum*
7. *Quae (The things which) sursum sunt quaerite; quae sursum sunt sapite, non quae super terram.*
8. *Lazare, veni foras...Solvite eum, et sinite abiare*
9. *Respicite et levate capita vestra*
10. *Respicite volatilia caeli*
11. *Venite, prandete*
12. *Vade, et tu fac similiter*
13. *Accipite eum vos, et secundum legem vestram judicate eum*
14. *Judica me Deus et discerne causam meam de gente non sancta*
15. *ab homine iniquo et doloso erue me*
16. *Emitte lucem tuam et veritatem tuam*

### Vocabulary

<i>jucundus</i> - pleasant	<i>mansio, -ionis</i> - resting-place, stay, sojourn
<i>macula, -ae</i> - stain	<i>clementer</i> - mercifully
<i>abstergo, -ere, -tersi, -tersum</i> (2) - to wipe off	<i>tribuo, -ere, -ui, -utum</i> (3) - to give, allot
<i>consortio, -ionis</i> - sharing, fellowship	<i>meritum, -i</i> - merit, reward
<i>intercessio, -ionis</i> - intercession	

### Collect from the Feast of St Gertrude, Virgin

*Deus, qui in corde beatae Gertrudis Virginis jucundam tibi mansionem praeparasti : ipsius meritis et intercessione, cordis nostri maculas clementer absterge, et ejusdem tribue gaudere consortio.*

O God who didst build up for Thyself a pleasant home in the heart of the holy virgin Gertrude : for the sake of her merits and prayers, do Thou wipe away from our hearts every stain of sin, nor refuse us a share in that happiness which is hers for evermore.

*Anima Christi, sanctifica me.*

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

### ANIMA CHRISTI

*Corpus Christi, salva me.  
Sanguis Christi, inebria me.  
Aqua lateris Christi, lava me.  
Passio Christi, conforta me.  
O bone Jesu, exaudi me  
Intra tua vulnera absconde me.  
Ne permittas me separari a te  
Ab hoste maligno defende me  
In hora mortis meae voca me,  
Et jube me venire ad te,  
Ut cum Sanctis tuis laudem te  
In saecula saeculorum. Amen.*

Body of Christ, save me.  
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.  
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.  
O good Jesus, hear me.  
Within Thy wounds, hide me.  
Suffer me not to be separated from Thee.  
From the malignant enemy defend me.  
At the hour of my death call me,  
And bid me come to Thee,  
That with Thy Saints I may praise Thee  
For ever and ever. Amen.

### Vocabulary

*oratio, -ionis* - supplication, prayer  
*ostendo, -ere, -ndi, -nsum* (3) - to show  
*desertus, -a, -um* - desolate  
*auris, -is* - ear  
*prosterno, -ere, -stravi, -stratum* - to cast down  
*placo, -are, -avi, -atum* (1) - to soothe, pacify  
*attendo, -ere, -ndi, -ntum* (1) - to attend, hear

*rex, precis*, - prayer  
*sanctuarium, -i* - holy place, sanctuary  
*inclinō, -are, -avi, -atum* (1) - to incline, bend  
*justificatio, -ionis* - justification  
*miseratio, -ionis* - compassion, pity  
*exaudio, -ire, -ivi, -itum* (4) - to hear graciously

### Prayer of the Prophet Daniel

*Nunc ergo exaudi, Deus noster, orationem servi tui, et preces ejus : et ostende faciem tuam super sanctuarium tuum, quod desertum est, propter temetipsum. Inclina, Deus meus, aurem tuam, et audi : aperi oculos tuos, et vide desolationem nostram, et civitatem, super quam invocatum est nomen tuum : neque enim in justificationibus nostris prosternimus preces ante faciem tuam, sed in miserationibus tuis multis. Exaudi, Domine, placare, Domine : attende et fac*

Now, therefore, O our God, hear the supplication of Thy servant and his prayers : and show Thy face upon thy sanctuary which is desolate, for Thy own sake. Incline, O Lord, Thy ear and hear : open Thy eyes and see our desolation and the city upon which Thy name is called : for it is not for our justifications that we present our prayers before Thy face, but for the multitude of thy tender mercies. O Lord, hear : O Lord, be appeased : hearken and do.

### Vocabulary

*insto, -are, -stiti* (1) - to be insistent, eager  
*importune* - inconveniently, at an unsuitable time  
*obsecro, -are* (1) - to beseech  
*vigilo, -are, -avi, -atum* (1) - to stay awake, watch  
*laboro, -are, -avi, -atum* (1) - to work  
*doctrina, -ae* - doctrine

*opportune* - conveniently, at a suitable time  
*arguo, -ere, -ui, -utum* (3) - to censure, reprove  
*increpo, -are, -avi, -atum* (1) - to chide, reproach  
*impleo, -ere, -evi, -etum* (2) - to fulfil  
*sobrius, -a, -um* - sober

*Lectio epistolae beati Pauli apostoli ad Timotheum. CARISSIME : praedica verbum, insta opportune, importune : argue, obsecra, increpa in omni patientia et doctrina... Tu vero vigila, in omnibus labora, opus fac evangelistae, ministerium tuum imple. Sobrius esto.*

Lesson from the Epistle of blessed Paul the Apostle to Timothy. DEARLY BELOVED : preach the word : be instant in season, out of season : reprove, entreat, rebuke in all patience and doctrine... be thou vigilant, labour in all things, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil thy ministry. Be sober.

### Vocabulary

*subjectus, -a, -um* - subject, obedient  
*praecellens, -entis* - excellent, distinguished  
*vindicta, -ae* - vengeance, punishment  
*obtumesco, -ere, -ui* (3) - to silence  
*imprudens, -entis* - unwise  
*liberus, -i* - a freeman  
*malitia, -ae* - wickedness  
*fraternitas, -atis* - brotherhood  
*obmutesco, -ere, -ui* (3) - to silence

*sive...sive* - either...or  
*dux, ducis* - leader, governor  
*malefactor, -oris* - evildoer  
*voluntas, -atis* - will, wish  
*ignorantia, -ae* - ignorance  
*velamen, -inis* - covering, cloak  
*modestus, -a, -um* - modest  
*dyscolus, -a, -um* - perverse, refractory

*Lectio Epistolae beati Petri Apostoli. Subjecti igitur estote omni humanae creaturae propter Deum ; sive regi, quasi praecellenti : sive ducibus, tamquam ab eo missis ad vindictam malefactorum, laudem vero bonorum : quia sic est voluntas Dei, ut benefacientes obmutescere faciat imprudentium hominum ignorantiam : quasi liberi,*

Taken from the epistle of the blessed Apostle Peter. Be ye subject therefore to every human creature for God's sake ; whether it be to the king as excelling, or to governors as sent by Him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of the good : for so is the will of God, that by doing well you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men : as free, and

*et non quasi velamen habentes malitiae libertatem, sed sicut servi Dei. Omnes honorate : fraternitatem diligite : Deum timete : regem honorificate. Servi, subditi estote in omni timore dominis, non tantum bonis et modestis, sed etiam dyscolis. Haec est enim gratia : in Christo Jesu Domino nostro.*

not as making liberty a cloak for malice, but as the servants of God. Honour all men : love the brotherhood : fear God : honour the king. Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. For this is thankworthy before God : in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### Vocabulary

*miserere* (Deponent) - have mercy  
*miseratio, -ionis* - compassion, pity  
*timor, -oris* - fear  
*magnalium, -i* - wonder, great deed  
*alienus, -a, -um* - strange, alien  
*innovo, -are* (1) - to renew  
*excito, -are* (1) - to rouse up, excite  
*effundo, -ere, -fudi, -fusum* (3) - to pour forth  
*adversarius. -i* - enemy

*immitto, -ere, -misi, -missum* (3) - to send  
*exquo, -ere, -quisivi, -quisitum* (3) - to seek out  
*allevio, -are* (1) - to lift up  
*potentia, -ae* - power  
*immuto, -are* (1) - to change, do new things  
*furor, -oris* - anger, indignation  
*enarro, -are* (1) - to tell, relate  
*inimicus, -i* enemy  
*memento* - remember

*Lectio Libri Sapientiae. MISERERE nostri, Deus omnium, et respice nos, et ostende nobis lucem miserationum tuarum : et immite timorem tuum super gentes, quae non exquisierunt te, ut cognoscant, quia non est Deus nisi tu, et enarrent magnalia tua. Alleva manum tuam super gentes alienas, ut videant potentiam tuam...Innova signa et immuta mirabilia. Glorifica manum, et brachium dextrum. Excita furorem, et effunde iram. Tolle adversarium, et afflige inimicum. Festina tempus, et memento finis ut enarrent mirabilia tua Domine, Deus noster.*

Lesson from the Book of Wisdom. HAVE MERCY upon us, O God of all, and behold us, and show us the light of Thy mercies : and send Thy fear upon the nations that have not sought after Thee, that they may know that there is no God beside Thee, and that they may show forth Thy wonders. Lift up Thy hand over the strange nations, that they may see Thy power...Renew Thy signs and work new miracles. Glorify Thy hand and Thy right arm. Raise up indignation, and pour out wrath. Take away the adversary and crush the enemy. Haste the time and remember the end, that they may declare Thy wonderful works, O Lord, our God.