

UNIT 13

DO'S AND DON'TS - THE IMPERATIVE CONTINUED

13.1 Exceptional Verbs

Some Verbs are so exceptional that they must be considered in their own right. Here are two such Verbs which in their Infinitive form *salvere* and *avere* both mean 'to be well', but their Imperative form is restricted to greeting or well-wishing, as in

Salve! Salvete! - Hail!

Ave! Avete! - Hail!

Their literal meaning is, of course, 'be well!'. They are found, for instance, in the well known expressions *Salve Regina* and *Ave Maria*.

Another unusual Verb is *rorare* which means 'to drop or distil dew' as in the phrase :

Rorate coeli de super
Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above

You will come across some Imperatives with the ending *-to* (Sing.) and *-tote* (Pl.), although these occur only rarely :

memento, mementote - remember!

esto, estote - be!

scito, scitote - know!

eg. :

Memento David - Remember David

Et vos estote parati - and be prepared

Propitius esto - Be merciful

Hoc autem scitote - But know this

Reading Practice

Memento homo quia pulvis es, et in pulverem reverteris

Remember, man, that thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return

Estote ergo prudentes sicut serpentes, et simplices sicut columbae

Be ye therefore as wise as serpents and as simple as doves

Scitote quoniam Dominus ipse est Deus

Know ye that the Lord He is God

patientes estote ad omnes

Be patient towards all men

13.2/1 PASSIVE AND DEPONENT IMPERATIVES

Both Passive and Deponent Verbs are formed in exactly the same way., that is by simply adding *-re* (Sing.) and *-mini* (Pl.) to the stem of the Verb as shown in the table below.

The only way to tell a 'true' Passive Imperative from a Deponent one is in the translation. If the Verb exhorts someone to submit to or undergo the action of an outside agency (eg. 'Be sealed with the Holy Spirit') then the sense is clearly Passive. If, on the other hand, the Verb, though Passive in form, has an *active* meaning (eg. Rejoice!), it is a Deponent Verb.

13.2/2 THE PASSIVE IMPERATIVE

<i>convertere</i>	be converted!	<i>illuminare</i>	be enlightened!
<i>convertimini</i>		<i>illuminamini</i>	

Vocabulary

<i>tollo, -ere, sustuli, sublatum</i> (3) - to take away	<i>reformato, -are, -avi, -atum</i> (1) - to mould anew
<i>novitas, -atis</i> - newness	<i>sensus, -us</i> - perception, mind
<i>calefacio, -ere, -eci, -actum</i> (3) - to heat	<i>saturo, -are, -avi, -atum</i> (1) - to fill
<i>(prae)cingo, -ere, cinxi, cinctum</i> (3) - to gird	<i>caliga, -ae</i> - shoe
<i>calceo, -are, -avi, -atum</i> (1) - to provide with shoes	<i>efficio, -ere, -feci, -fectum</i> (3) - to make
<i>parvulus, -i</i> - a small child	<i>aliquantulum</i> - somewhat
<i>induo, -ere, -dui, -dutum</i> (3) - to clothe	

Reading Practice

Note how the Singular form of the Verb is identical to the Present Infinitive Active.

<i>Convertere, Domine, aliquantulum, et deprecare super servos tuos</i>	<u>Be turned</u> somewhat, O Lord, and <u>be entreated</u> in favour of Thy servants
<i>Volo, mundare</i>	I will, <u>be thou made clean</u>
<i>accedite ad eum, et illuminamini</i>	come ye to Him, and <u>be enlightened</u>
<i>quicumque dixerit huic monti : Tollere et mittere in mare</i>	Whosoever shall say to this mountain : <u>Be thou removed</u> and <u>be cast</u> into the sea
<i>reformamini in novitate sensus vestri</i>	<u>be reformed</u> in the newness of your mind
<i>calefacimini et saturamini</i>	<u>be ye warmed</u> and <u>filled</u>
<i>praecingere et calcea te caligas tuas</i>	gird thyself (lit. <u>be girt</u>) and put on thy sandals
<i>efficiamini sicut parvuli</i>	become (lit. <u>be made</u>) like little children
<i>induimini Dominum Jesum Christum</i>	Put ye on (lit. <u>be clothed with</u>) the Lord Jesus Christ
<i>humiliamini igitur sub potenti manu Dei</i>	<u>be ye humbled</u> therefore under the mighty hand of God
<i>Renovamini spiritu mentis vestrae</i>	<u>Be ye renewed</u> in the spirit of your mind
<i>loquimini veritatem</i>	<u>speak ye</u> the truth

Vocabulary

<i>aeternalis</i> - eternal	<i>illumino, -are, -avi, -atum</i> (1) - to enlighten, light up
<i>surgo, -ere, surrexi, surrectum</i> (3) - to rise up	<i>cresco, -ere, crevi, cretum</i> (3) - to grow, increase
<i>placo, -are, -avi, -atum</i> (1) - to soothe, pacify	<i>mens, mentis</i> - mind

Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate Imperative

<i>multiplicamini</i>	<i>illuminare</i>	<i>elevamini</i>	<i>placare</i>	<i>revelamini</i>
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|--|--|
| 1. <i>Tollite portas, principes vestras et _____ portae aeternales</i> | Lift up your gates, O ye princes, and <u>be ye lifted up</u> , O eternal gates |
| 2. <i>crescite, et _____, et replete terram</i> | increase, and <u>be multiplied</u> , and fill the earth |
| 3. <i>surge et _____, Jerusalem</i> | arise and <u>be enlightened</u> , O Jerusalem |
| 4. <i>his, qui in tenebris, _____</i> | to those who are in darkness <u>show yourselves</u> |
| 5. <i>exaudi, Domine : _____, Domine</i> | O Lord, hear : O Lord, <u>be appeased</u> |

13.2/3 THE DEPONENT IMPERATIVE

<i>laetare</i> rejoice!	<i>miserere</i> have mercy!
<i>laetamini</i>	<i>miseremini</i>
<i>dignare</i> vouchsafe!	<i>confitere</i> praise!
<i>dignamini</i>	<i>confitemini</i>

Vocabulary

<i>reminiscor, reminisci</i> (with Genitive) (3) - to remember	<i>dignor, -ari</i> (1) - to vouchsafe
<i>aemulor, -ari</i> (1) - to strive to attain, be eager for	<i>charismata</i> - gifts
<i>negotior, -ari</i> (1) - to carry on business, to trade	<i>dum</i> - until
<i>dominor, -ari</i> (1) - to rule	<i>sector, -ari</i> (1) - to follow

Reading Practice

<i>Dignare, Domine, die isto, sine peccato nos custodire</i>	<u>Vouchsafe</u> , O Lord, this day, to keep us without sin
<i>Egredere de arca, tu et uxor tua, filii tui...et ingredimini super terram</i>	<u>Go out</u> of the ark, thou, and thy wife and thy children... <u>go</u> ye upon the earth
<i>Reminiscere miserationum tuarum, Domine</i>	<u>Remember</u> , O Lord, Thy mercies
<i>Dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum</i>	<u>Rule</u> thou in the midst of thine enemies
<i>aemulamini autem charismata meliora</i>	<u>Be ye zealous</u> for the higher gifts
<i>quod bonum est sectamini</i>	<u>follow</u> that which is good

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate word :

<i>miserere</i>	<i>laetamini</i>	<i>sequere</i>	<i>laetare</i>	<i>negotiamini</i>	<i>confitemini</i>
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- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <i>Regina Coeli _____, alleluia</i> | Queen of Heaven <u>rejoice</u> , alleluia |
| 2. <i>_____ in Domino</i> | <u>Rejoice</u> in the Lord |
| 3. <i>_____ nobis</i> | <u>have mercy</u> on us |
| 4. <i>_____ Domino, quoniam bonum</i> | |

5. _____ *me*
6. _____ *dum venio*

Praise the Lord, for He is good
follow me
trade till I come

13.3/1 The Negative Imperative

There are several ways of giving negative commands in Latin. You have already met one of them (see **10.3**) in the use of *non* and the Future Tense. In this Unit you will be introduced to two further ways of telling or asking someone *not* to do something. Only the first of these can be called the 'true' Negative Imperative because it is formed according to the rules set out in **12.2**, but the second (using *ne* with the Subjunctive) fulfills exactly the same function. Both are explained below.

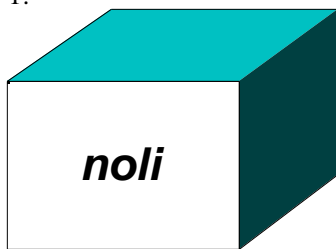
13.3/2 The 'true' Negative Imperative

This consists of two parts :

1. the **Imperative** form of the verb *nolo* (to be unwilling)
2. the **Present Infinitive** of the relevant Verb

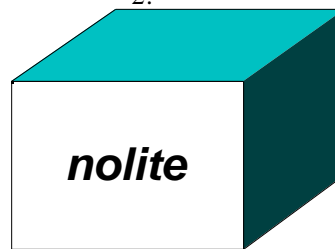
Thus we have :

1.



when addressing one person

2.



when addressing two or more people

Being Imperative forms, *noli* and *nolite* mean literally 'be unwilling!' or 'do not wish!', although this literal translation is not used in practice; but when *noli* and *nolite* are used in conjunction with an **Infinitive** the whole construction gives a very blunt and forceful way of telling someone to desist from doing whatever it is. This is a form which is much used by the Prophets, by Saint Paul and also by Jesus Himself when telling people what not to do. Let us now see how it is used in practice :

This is how Jesus tells us not to blow our own trumpets :

noli tuba canere ante te

and how St James urges us not to sin :

Nolite itaque errare, fratres mei dilectissimi

and St Paul tells us not to give place to the devil:

nolite locum dare diabolo

Vocabulary

<i>contristo, -are, -avi, -atum (1) - to sadden, make sad</i>	<i>fleo, -ere, flevi, fletum (2) - to weep</i>
<i>provoco, -are, -avi, -atum (1) - to provoke</i>	<i>iracundia, -ae - anger</i>
<i>jejuno, -are, -avi, -atum (1) - to fast</i>	<i>arbitror, -ari (1) - to be of opinion</i>
<i>sperno, -ere, sprevi, spretum (3) - reject, scorn</i>	<i>prophetia, -ae - prophecy</i>

Reading Practice

Nolite timere

Do not be afraid

Filiae Jerusalem, nolite flere super me, sed super vos ipsas flete, et super filios vestros

Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep over me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.

Et vos, patres, nolite ad iracundiam provocare filios vestros

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to become angry

nolite jejunare sicut usque ad hanc diem

Do not fast as you have done until this day

nolite esse prudentes apud vosmetipsos

be not wise in your own conceits

nolite arbitrari quia pacem venerim mittere in terram

do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth

vos autem nolite vocari Rabbi

but be not you called Rabbi

Spiritum nolite extinguere. Prophetias nolite spernere


Extinguish not the spirit. Despise not prophecies.

Irascimini et nolite peccare

Be ye angry and sin not

Exercise 3 Translate the following well known prohibitions and warnings from the New Testament :

1. *nolite thesaurizare vobis in terra*
2. *noli contristare Spiritum Sanctum Dei*
3. *Noli vinci a malo, sed vince in bono malum*
4. *nolite conformari huic saeculo*
5. *Benedicite persequentibus vos : benedicite et nolite maldicere*
6. *noli me tangere*
7. *noli esse incredulus, sed fidelis*

 Nos. 3 and 4 contain examples of the Passive Infinitive (see 3.2). *Vinci* (to be overcome) is the Passive form of *vincere* (to conquer), and *conformari* (to be conformed) is the Passive form of *conformare* (to conform)

Vocabulary

<i>discedo, -ere, cessi, -cessum (3) - to depart</i>	<i>declino, -are, avi, -atum (1) - to turn away</i>
<i>derelinquo, -ere, -iqui, ictum (3) - abandon</i>	<i>averto, -ere, -erti, -ersum (3) - to turn away</i>
<i>perdo, -ere, -didi, -ditum (3) - to lose, destroy</i>	<i>punio, -ire, -ivi, -itum (4) - to punish</i>
<i>sileo, -ere (2) - to be silent</i>	<i>sollicitus, -a, -um - worried</i>
<i>induco, -ere, -dixi, -ductum (3) - to lead into</i>	<i>tentatio, -ionis - temptation</i>
<i>impius, -a, -um - wicked</i>	<i>respicio, -ere, respexi, respectum - to look at</i>

13.3/3 The Subjunctive used as a Negative Imperative

Just as the Present Subjunctive can be used for issuing commands or requests (see 6.2), so the same method can be used negatively, that is to forbid or request someone not to do something. When you use

this method (the Jussive Subjunctive) you are not strictly speaking in the Imperative Mood at all which will be outlined later in this Unit, for the Subjunctive is a rather roundabout way of conveying orders, as distinct from the more direct approach of the Imperative.

First look back to Unit 6 and see how the Subjunctive is used to express a command or strong wish for some action to be taken. To turn commands into the negative, simply place *ne* before the Subjunctive form of the Verb.

Study the following comparisons:

Conjugation	Indicative	Negative Subjunctive
1st	<i>declinas</i> - you turn away	<i>ne declines</i> - turn not away
2nd	<i>siles</i> - you are silent	<i>ne sileas</i> - be not silent
2nd	<i>times</i> - you fear	<i>ne timeas</i> - Fear not
3rd	<i>avertis</i> - you turn away	<i>ne avertas</i> - turn not away
3rd	<i>derelinquis</i> - you forsake	<i>ne derelinquas</i> - forsake not
3rd	<i>perdis</i> - you lose/destroy	<i>ne perdas</i> - destroy not
3rd	<i>discedis</i> - you depart	<i>ne discedas</i> - depart not
4th	<i>punis</i> - you punish	<i>ne punias</i> - do not punish

Exercise 4

Translate the following sentences :

1. *Ne derelinquas me, Domine Deus meus, ne discedas a me*
2. *ne sileas a me*
3. *Ne timeas, Maria*
4. *ne avertas faciem tuam*
5. *ne me perdas illa die* (from the *Dies Irae*)
6. *ne perdas cum impiis animam meam*
7. *ne nos inducas in tentationem* (from the *Pater Noster*)
8. *ne respicias peccata mea*
9. *ne solliciti sitis*

Vocabulary

<i>misericors</i> , -cordis - merciful	<i>condemno</i> , -are, -avi, -atum (1) - to condemn
<i>grex</i> , <i>gregis</i> - herd, flock	<i>pusillus</i> , -a, -um - small
<i>complaceo</i> , -ere, -ui (2) - to please exceedingly	<i>vendo</i> , -ere, -didi, -ditum (3) - to sell
<i>eleemosyna</i> , -ae - alms	<i>possideo</i> , -ere, <i>possedi</i> , <i>possessum</i> (2) - to possess
<i>sacculus</i> , -i - bag	<i>thesaurus</i> , -i - treasure
<i>tinea</i> , -ae - moth	<i>veterasco</i> , -ere, -avi (3) - to grow old
<i>deficio</i> , -ere, -feci, -fectum (3) - to fail, cease	<i>corrumpo</i> , -ere, -rupi, -ruptum (3) - to destroy, spoil
<i>thesaurus</i> , -i - treasure	<i>appropio</i> , -are (1) - to approach

Reading Practice

Sequentia sancti Evangelii secundum Lucam.
In illo tempore, dixit Jesus discipulis suis : Estote misericordes, sicut et Pater vester misericors est.

Continuation of the holy Gospel according to St Luke. At that time Jesus said to His disciples : Be ye merciful as your Father also is merciful. Judge not,

Nolite iudicare, et non iudicabimini : nolite condemnare, et non condemnabimini. Date, et dabitur vobis

and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Give, and it shall be given unto you.

Nolite timere, pusillus grex, quia complacuit Patri vestro dare vobis regnum. Vendite quae possidetis, et date eleemosynam. Facite vobis sacculos qui non veterascunt, thesaurum non deficientem in coelis : quo fur non appropriat, neque tinea corrumpit. Ubi enim thesaurus vester est, ibi et cor vestrum erit.

Fear not, little flock, for it hath pleased your Father to give you a kingdom. Sell what you possess, and give alms. Make to yourselves bags which grow not old, a treasure in heaven which faileth not : where no thief approacheth, nor moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Vocabulary

caute - cautiously

inprudens, -entis - unwise

voluntas, -atis - will, wish

spiritualis - spiritual

psallo, psallere (3) - to make melody, sing psalms

subjectus, -a, -um - subject, obedient

propterea - for that reason

intelligens, -entis - intelligent

luxuria, -ae - luxury, dissipation

psalmum, -i - psalm

invicem - one to the other, reciprocally

timor, -oris - fear.

Lectio Epistolae beati Pauli Apostoli ad Ephesios. FRATRES : Videte quomodo caute ambulatis : non quasi insipientes, sed ut sapientes, redimentes tempus, quoniam dies mali sunt. Propterea nolite fieri imprudentes, sed intelligentes, quae sit voluntas Dei. Et nolite inebriari vino, in quo est luxuria : sed implemini Spiritu sancto, loquentis vobismetipsis in psalmis, et hymnis, et canticis spiritualibus, cantantes et psallentes in cordibus vestris Domino : gratias agentes semper pro omnibus, in nomine Domini nostri Jesu Christi, Deo et Patri. Subjecti invicem in timore Christi.

Lesson from the Epistle of blessed Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians. BRETHREN : See how you walk circumspectly, not as unwise, but as wise ; redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore, become not unwise, but understanding what is the will of God. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is luxury : but be ye filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns, and spiritual canticles, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord : giving thanks always for all things, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to God and the Father ; being subject one to another in the fear of Christ.

Vocabulary

conforto, -are, -avi, -atum (1) - to strengthen

induo, -ere, -dii, -dutum - to clothe, cover

possitis - you may be able

diabolus, -i - devil

rector, -oris - ruler

nequitia, -ae - wickedness

propterea - for that reason

succinctus, -a, -um - girt, armed with

lorica, -ae - leather cuirass, breast-plate

calceatus, -a, -um - shod

telum, -i - weapon, dart

extinguo, -ere, -inxi, -inctum (3) - to quench

potentia, -ae - power

armatura, -ae - armour

insidiae, -arum - deceit, plot, ambush

colluctatio, -ionis - wrestling, struggle

in coelestibus - in high places

resisto, -ere, -stiti (3) - to resist, withstand

perfectus, -a, -um - perfect

lumbus, -i - loin

scutum, -i - shield

igneus, -a, -um - fiery

galea, -ae - helmet

assumo, -ere, assumpsi, assumptum (3) - to take up

Lectio Epistolae beati Pauli Apostoli ad Ephesios. FRATRES : Confortamini in Domino, et in potentia virtutis ejus.. Induite vos armaturam Dei, ut possitis stare adversus insidias diaboli. Quoniam non est nobis colluctatio adversus carnem et

Lesson from the Epistle of blessed Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians. BRETHREN : Be strengthened in the Lord, and in the might of His power. Put you on the armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the deceits of the devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and

sanguinem : sed adversus principes et potestates, adversus mundi rectores tenebrarum harum, contra spiritualia nequitiæ, in coelestibus. Propterea accipite armaturam Dei, ut possitis resistere in die malo, et in omnibus perfecti stare. Stare ergo succincti lumbos vestros in veritate et induti loricam justitiæ, et calceati pedes in præparatione Evangelii pacis : in omnibus sumentes scutum fidei, in quo possitis omnia tela nequissimi ignea extinguere : et galeam salutis assumite : et gladium spiritus, quod est verbum Dei.

blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the world of this darkness, against the spirits of wickedness in the high places. Therefore, take unto you the armour of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and to stand in all things perfect; stand therefore having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breast-plate of justice, and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in all things taking the shield of faith, wherewith you may be able to extinguish all the fiery darts of the most wicked one. And take unto you the helmet of salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God