

Lezione 7B2 – The formal imperative

In Strutture 7B.1 you learned the informal imperative. Use the formal imperative to give commands, directions, and suggestions to a person you address using Lei.

- The formal imperative forms correspond to **Lei** and **Loro**. Form the **Lei** imperative by dropping the **-o** ending of the first person present-tense form and adding **-i** to **-are** verbs and **-a** to **-ere** and **-ire** verbs.

Formal imperative of regular verbs				
	parlare	leggere	dormire	finire
Lei	parli	legga	dorma	finisca
Loro	parlino	leggano	dormano	finiscano

*Remember that **the** use of **Loro** is limited to very formal situations. The imperative form of **voi** is much more commonly used to address a group.

Chiuda la porta, signorina!

Close the door, Miss!

Compri questa lampada, signore!

Buy this lamp, Sir!

- For verbs that are irregular in the first person present, change the final **-o** to **-a**.
 - Signorina, **venga** in cucina e **beva** un'aranciata! *Miss, come into the kitchen and drink some tea.*
 - **Esca** subito, dottore! **Vada** con Giuseppe! *Go out right away, Doctor! Go!*
 - **Faccia** il bucato, per favore! *Do the laundry please!*
 - **Dica** la verità! *Tell the truth!*

- Some common verbs are irregular in the formal imperative.

Irregular formal imperative forms				
avere	dare	essere	sapere	stare
abbia	dia	sia	sappia	stia

Stia tranquillo! Li lavo io.

Be calm. I'll wash them.

Abbia pazienza, signora!

Be patient, Miss!

