# Direct Commands

This section of the tutorial covers the use of direct commands. You will learn when to use formal and informal direct commands, when to use singular and plural versions of both types of commands, and when to use the affirmative and negative.

In Spanish, there are two versions of the singular pronoun, **you**—*usted* and *tú*. Similarly, there are two versions of the plural pronoun, **you all**—*ustedes* and *vosotros*. The choice between using either *usted* and *tú* or *ustedes* and *vosotros*  is determined by the context of the interaction.

In a formal context, use **usted**, regardless of any personal relationship with the person you are addressing—unless the person has asked to be addressed with **tú**. In addition, use **usted** when talking to a stranger or when addressing an older person.

In formal situations, use titles of respect such as Señor (Mr.), Señora (Mrs.), Don (Mr.), Doña (Mrs.), Señorita (Miss) and doctor (Doctor). Usted can convey formality, courtesy, deference, social or psychological distance, or respect.

Sometimes, a permanent switch from **usted** to **tú** occurs when a relationship progresses from distant to more intimate or personal.

If you typically address someone on a first-name basis--such as a relative, child or friend, that would be considered an informal context; so you would use **tú.** No titles are used in informal situations. Tú can convey familiarity, affection, trust or intimacy.

You’ve learned when to use formal and informal direct commands. Now, let’s look at two categories within each type of command. **Singular** direct commands are used when addressing one person; and **plural** direct commands are used when addressing more than one person.

For both singular and plural direct commands, the command could be either affirmative—asking someone to do something; or the command could be negative—asking someone not to do something. Let’s look at some examples.

Lea (usted) el libro.

No hable usted.

This completes the section of the tutorial about direct commands. Return to the main menu to explore the tutorial sections about formal direct commands or informal direct commands.