

Affirmative and Negative Formal Commands

In Spanish, there are two ways to say **you**: **tú** (informal) or **usted** (formal). **Usted** may be abbreviated as **Ud.** There are specific situations you would use **usted**. Let's review when formality is used in the Spanish culture.

Formality is used with:

- someone older
- someone you don't know
- someone that deserves respect from you

Here are some suggestions of other people you may encounter who you may need to use formality with:

- someone with a title (Dr., Dra., Sr., Sra., or Srta., etc.)
- your Spanish teacher
- your best friend's mom or dad
- the nurse at the doctor's office

Looking at the ending of the verb will help you identify a formal command:

If the verb ends in:	-ar	-er	-ir
The formal command ends in:	-e	-a	-a

Now that you know what formality is, when it's used, and why you use it, let's see the difference between informal and formal commands:

tú affirmative

Espera (esperar) en la oficina del doctor.
(**Wait** at the doctor's office.)

tú negative

No esperes (esperar) en la oficina del doctor.
(**Don't wait** at the doctor's office.)

usted affirmative

Espere (esperar) en la oficina del doctor.
(**Wait** at the doctor's office.)

usted negative

No espere (esperar) en la oficina del doctor.
(**Don't wait** at the doctor's office)

Using Formal Commands

Formality is not only used out of respect, but it's also used when you want to be polite. Your doctor will use formality with you and all the other patients out of respect and because he or she is being polite.

Here are some examples of what you might hear at the doctor's office:

Si quiere mejorarse, **descanse** por una semana.

(If you want to get well, rest for a week.)

No **estornude** hasta que termine de examinarla.

(Don't sneeze until I finish examining you.)