

#### 17.4 Position of object pronouns with the imperative.

When an imperative form is used with an object pronoun, the following rules apply:

(a) If the imperative is affirmative, the pronouns are attached to the verb in the normal order:

*(tú) dame la mano*

*(tú) ponte la chaqueta*

*(Ud.) démelo*

*(Vosotros/a) dádmelo*

*(Uds.) dénnoslo*

*Dime lo que sea, venga*

*Déjame lo ver*

(b) If the imperative is negative, the pronouns precede it in the normal way, as shown:

*No me des la lata.*

*No te pongas la chaqueta*

*No me lo dé*

*No os quejéis*

*No se lo enseñen*

(i) When a pronoun ending in a vowel is attached to an affirmative Uds. Imperative there is a widespread tendency in popular Latin-American speech either to repeat the plural –n at the end of the word or to shift it to the end of the word: for example, *levántensen* or *levántesen*, *desen cuenta*. In some places these forms are heard even in spontaneous educated speech, but only in the sub-standard or dialect speech in Spain, and they are banned from Latin-American written styles.

(ii) In parts of northern Spain, popular language puts the pronouns before an affirmative imperative verb and uses a redundant pronoun even for a direct object: *¡le dé el juguete!* or *¡las riegue las plantas!*. This construction is often stigmatized as uneducated and should not be imitated.

(iii) Uncertainty surrounds the correct spelling of the Ud. Imperative of *dar* (dé) when one pronoun is attached: *dele* or *déle*. Since the accent merely distinguishes *dé* from *de*, it is not needed on an unambiguous form like *dele*, *denos*.

#### 17.5 First-person plural imperatives.

The present subjunctive can be used to make a first-person plural imperative, e.g. “let’s go”, “let’s begin”. If the verb is pronominal (‘reflexive’), the final –s is dropped before adding –nos:

Empecemos

Asegurémonos

No nos enfademos

- (i) *Ir* forms its first-person plural imperative irregularly: *vamos*, *vámonos*. The expected form *vayámonos* is nowadays virtually extinct and *vayamos* is used as an imperative only in set phrases, e.g. *vayamos al grano*.

- (ii) With the exception of vámonos, informal spoken language tends to avoid this construction. This is usually done by using ir a or sometimes simply a and an infinitive, e.g. vamos a sentarnos, bueno a levantarse. Thus no nos enfademos may be expressed by no nos vamos a enfadar.
- (iii) Double s is not found in Spanish, so one s is dropped in cases like the following: *digámoselo* (not *digámosselo*) or *démoselos*.

Source: Butt, John and Carmen Benjamin. *A New Reference Grammar of Modern Spanish*. NY: McGraw-Hill, 2004. P. 291.

Curious note: Although no *-sn* word exists in Spanish, there are approximately 83 *-nn* words in Spanish, for example:

**Cannabis**= Cáñamo índico, usado como estupefaciente.

**Circunnavegación**= Dicho de un buque: Dar la vuelta al mundo.

**Connacional**= Que pertenece a la misma nación que otro.

**Connotar**= Dicho de una palabra: Conllevar, además de su significado propio o específico, otro de tipo expresivo o apelativo.

**Ennegrecer**=poner negro, oscurecer.

**Ennoblecer**= Hacer noble a alguien o adornar, enriquecer una ciudad, un templo, etc.

**Innacible**= Que no puede nacer.

**Innato**= Connatural y como nacido con la misma persona.

**Innovación**= Creación o modificación de un producto, y su introducción en un mercado.

**Innumerable**= Incalculable. Muy grande o muy numeroso.

**Perennemente**= Incesantemente, continuamente.

**Prima donna**= Protagonista femenina de una ópera.

**Sinnúmero**= Número incalculable de personas o cosas.