

Grammar with Imagine



The grammar topic we have connected to this song is the imperative form. Let's take a look...



The title of this song is a verb, but it's a powerful and commanding verb. A verb must be used with a subject in English, but this is not the case in this song. When a verb is used in a commanding way without the subject, this is called **the imperative form**.



Let's look out for the imperative form in the lyrics...



Imagine there's no heaven It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people
Living for today... Aha-ah...

Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion, too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace... You-uh...

You may say I'm a dreamer But I'm not the only one I hope someday you'll join us And the world will be as one Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world... You-uh...

You may say I'm a dreamer But I'm not the only one I hope someday you'll join us And the world will live as one



The imperative form is very easy to create. We simply say the verb with no subject. This form is the same for every person, so we don't conjugate the verb. This is why the imperative is a mood and not a tense, because the verb doesn't change depending on the person speaking.



Imagine!

This is the affirmative form.



In the negative form we say DO NOT (or DON'T) plus infinitive verb.

Don't imagine!



But you'll notice a different kind of command in the lyrics too.

No hell No religion No need



Although this isn't an imperative form, it's still a command, but it's not a verb, it's a noun instead. When we want to command a noun, we use the structure NO + NOUN.

A typical example is NO SMOKING.

