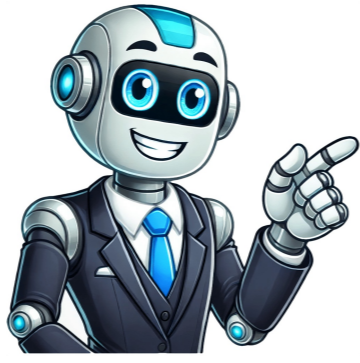


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百度知道>提示信息 知道宝贝找不到问题了> 提示信息 知道宝贝找不到问题了> not a good combination in my opinion. Hello, I'm not sure what the accepted way of using "imperative" as an adjective is/are. I found many entries, which use the form "to doing" (1), "in doing" (2), "for doing" (3), "to do"(4), although the last one is either follow by the thing that is allowed by what is imperative (4), or what is imperative (5). Are all these forms below acceptable to a native's ears (all found in various internet pages)? On Ngram, imperative to reduce (or do, achieve, obtain, etc.) is the most common, but it could be mainly because of sentences like (5). (1) Having a robust national health system is seen as imperative to reducing the health impacts on the country's population. (2) Maintaining oral health in the critically ill patient is imperative in reducing the risk of nosocomial infections and improving patient comfort and discharge outcomes. (3) Reducing pollution - mainly in urban areas - is imperative for reducing health risks. (4) The move to electric vehicles is seen as imperative to reduce CO2 emissions and reach targets in addressing the challenges of climate change. (5) It is imperative to reduce private sector's share in vaccine pool to inoculate poor and inaccessible sections. As an adjective, imperative is used in the same way as essential. There's nothing unusual about it. Hi All, There is a question in TOEIC Official Test-Preparation Guide vol.2. It's as below. 138. It is imperative that computer passwords be kept confidential. (A) were (B) be (C) being (D) had been The answer is (B), but why is there no any choice "are"? and why does it can use "be" here? In my opinion, the answer should be "are", because the clause is present tense and passive. Am I right? PS If I made any grammatical mistake in my post, please let me know. Thank you. ^_^ "Be" in your sentence is an example of the present subjunctive being used after the phrase "It is imperative that...". This is similar to its use after other phrases such as "The chairman asked that we be on time for all meetings". Another similar example: It is necessary that you be here for the meeting tomorrow. Of the options given, "be" is the only one possible, as owlman explained. However, AmE uses the subjunctive more than BrE in this type of construction. In British English you certainly can say (and write) "... imperative that passwords are kept confidential...". It's one of the many subtle differences in trans-Atlantic usage, I'm afraid. Orders, instructions, requirements, etc., are one of the uses of the subjunctive, at least in American English. Besides "imperative," the subjunctive would be used after adjectives like "necessary," "important," and "required." The present subjunctive form is "be" regardless of the number of person of the subject: It is imperative that the password be kept confidential. (3rd person singular) It is imperative that you be aware of the confidentiality policy. (2nd person, sing. or pl.) It is imperative that we be informed of the policy. (1st person plural) It is imperative that I be informed of the policy. (1s person singular) Wow I guess I learn something new. I thought 'are' was also an option and that they did not put 'are' because in this case they wanted you to use 'be.' Using either one seems fine to me. I like 'be' better though. To me it sounds better but that's just my opinion. 'Are' is also an option (in BrE), but not one on the list given. In a formal instruction like this, BrE is quite likely to use 'be', though 'are' would not be out of place even at this level of formality. Actually I agree with entangledbank that 'be' was probably given because the instructions are formal. Maybe if these instructions are written in a book the answer would be 'be' but said aloud, it really is up to the speaker. I keep hearing people say on this forum that 'be' is correct in American English and that 'are' is an option in British English. Can someone from the U.S. tell me if for a sentence like that you've heard 'are' used? I don't think it's so much of a British thing. A lot of American English speakers, particularly the younger and less educated, have no idea what the subjunctive is, and fail to use it at all. I'm sure that many would be stumped by be in this example and would prefer are. Languagehinkerlover said: Actually I agree with entangledbank that 'be' was probably given because the instructions are formal. Maybe if these instructions are written in a book the answer would be 'be' but said aloud, it really is up to the speaker. I keep hearing people say on this forum that 'be' is correct in American English and that 'are' is an option in British English. Can someone from the U.S. tell me if for a sentence like that you've heard 'are' used? I don't think it's so much of a British thing. In a business setting, a public meeting, a speech from an official or even from an irate parent in a parent-teacher conference I would expect "be." "I demand that he be fired immediately." "I demand that he is fired immediately." English education in the U.S. seems to be at a very low point these days, so I wouldn't be surprised if a high school student (or graduate) was not clear on the concept, but I would expect any college graduate to know and use the subjunctive correctly. A lot of American English speakers, particularly the younger and less educated, have no idea what the subjunctive is, and fail to use it at all. I'm sure that many would be stumped by be in this example and would prefer are. I agree. Thanks for verifying. In a business setting, a public meeting, a speech from an official or even from an irate parent in a parent-teacher conference I would expect "be." "I demand that he be fired immediately." "I demand that he is fired immediately." English education in the U.S. seems to be at a very low point these days, so I wouldn't be surprised if a high school student (or graduate) was not clear on the concept, but I would expect any college graduate to know and use the subjunctive correctly. I would expect the same. I see 'be' as more formal. But even if the situation is not formal, it does not hurt to use 'be' sometimes. Thanks for the response. Well, it's not just formal. Here are some examples from recent news articles. I don't think of any of these news articles as particularly formal. As J.P.'s batting turn approached, she prayed, asking that he be taken care of, that he feel strong, and maybe for a hit. She thought of her own mother, who had passed away when J.P. was at Tennessee, and she smiled to herself when she noticed a flag dangling from one of the windows of the hotel - a large orange T. She took a picture of it. Selena Gomez has admitted that she doesn't really prefer Justin Bieber's new mustache! Although these two love birds will not officially admit to being in a relationship, they have recently been spotted smooching and canoodling. Apparently, when Selena is locking-lips with her "friend" she prefers that he be clean-shaven. "They are calling him provocative and raw," says Morgan. "I can agree with the raw, but provocative? That's something they should be calling me, not Cooper." In order to compete with such stiff competition, Piers Morgan is asking that he be allowed to conduct his entire show standing up. Perhaps this is nit-picky, but news articles are "formal" in the sense that they're edited and expected to conform to the conventions of standard English, as opposed to casual everyday conversations between high school students. I would expect journalists to correctly use the subjunctive (though I am sometimes disappointed). I don't think I want to use conversations between high school students as any bar to aspire to for language proficiency. I think we actually agree, although we may be saying it differently. It's standard English, not necessarily formal English and conversations include non-standard English all the time. What I am objecting to is the notion that "are" is standard because it is heard in conversation. I get the impression from LanguageThinkerLover's posts that he is mixing up "what is heard" with "what is correct". Indeed, JamesM, we do agree on this one! The subjunctive is the only correct option, which may be perceived as formal because it is so often neglected in informal contexts. Languagehinkerlover said: Wow I guess I learn something new. I thought 'are' was also an option and that they did not put 'are' because in this case they wanted you to use 'be.' Using either one seems fine to me. I like 'be' better though. To me it sounds better but that's just my opinion. In some cases it can mean something completely different. "She insists that he be incarcerated." (She insists that he should be put in jail, even though he is free right now.) "She insists that he is incarcerated." (She insists that he is in jail right now. Apparently someone doesn't believe that this is true.) Replacing the subjunctive can often change the meaning of the sentence, at least in American English. "It is critical that the body be in its original position." (The body must stay in its original position.) "It is critical that the body is in its original position." (The body is in its original position. This fact is critical in some way.) Last edited: Mar 22, 2011 Indeed, JamesM, we do agree on this one! The subjunctive is the only correct option, which may be perceived as formal because it is so often neglected in informal contexts. I know that it is silly to refute your claim with a couple of examples, but I think that the subjunctive is, for the most part, correctly used by high school students. The other day, I heard a girl, whom I don't consider to be especially academically oriented, scream into her cell phone, "It's not enough that she call herself my friend..." Later that day: "What shouldn't happen is that he get the part." Last edited: Mar 22, 2011 Would the British use the indicative in both of these cases? "It's not enough that she calls herself my friend. . . ." "What shouldn't happen is that he gets the part." In the first case, the subjunctive/indicative distinction is important, and so I wonder how BE would handle it if the subjunctive is not available. Perhaps ribran doesn't remember or didn't catch the rest of the sentence, but "calls" would be correct for a different continuation than "call": "It's not enough that she call herself my friend, she has to proveit. It's not enough that she calls herself my friend, she also acts as if she were my friend. Would the British use the indicative in both of these cases? "It's not enough that she calls herself my friend. . . ." "What shouldn't happen is that he gets the part." In the first case, the subjunctive/indicative distinction is important, and so I wonder how BE would handle it if the subjunctive is not available. Perhaps ribran doesn't remember or didn't catch the rest of the sentence, but "calls" would be correct for a different continuation than "call": "It's not enough that she call herself my friend, she also acts as if she were my friend. Sorry, I should have added that. I don't remember exactly what she said, but it was something like, "I barely know her! She is going to have to prove it!" Well, that's one of the uses of the subjunctive in American English. Perhaps it is common enough for children to learn without formal study, and to use without thinking carefully about formal, academic English. Indeed, Loob. Sorry, I was speaking exclusively about American usage. Well, that's one of the uses of the subjunctive in American English. Perhaps it is common enough for children to learn without formal study, and to use without thinking carefully about formal, academic English. I think the present subjunctive mood is well entrenched in casual American speech. Use of the irrealis is on the decline, but I would say that it is still in common use. Anyway, how would BrE speakers phrase my second example in post #17? Anyway, how would BrE speakers phrase my second example in post #17? Well, I can't speak for all BrE speakers - but what I would use is the indicative: "What shouldn't happen is that he gets the part." We are moving a very long way away from the OP's question. Just a quick note: I believe that this structure is also called mandative subjunctive and sometimes it is "mandatory", although more commonly in AE. It seems to be used with verb and adjective constructions implying that something is necessary, essential, demanded, required, asked for, obligatory etc. Anyway, thanks to all of you for your input as it has provided me with some more information than I'd had before Sometimes it looks really weird-just a base form, therefore no sequence of tenses, but it makes it easier to use. A real paradox. I suggested (that) he be for me to pick him up at his place at five o'clock. At least that's the way I think it works. Should you have any suggestions or corrections, all of them are welcome Last edited: Mar 22, 2011 I suggested (that) he be for me to pick him up at his place at five o'clock. At least that's the way I think it works. Should you have any suggestions or corrections, all of them are welcome I think you are missing a word in your sample sentence. It could be I suggested that he be available for me to pick him up. . . . I suggested that he be ready. . . . prepared. . . . waiting. . . I am sure there are others. And I wonder what BE would do with this. Perhaps . . . ? Thank you Fabulist, you ARE right, indeed. This is what happens when one tries to "proof-read" his own writing- your mind is so full of the original text that it cannot not read the missing part. I did mean to include something like ready, available or another adjective that might fill in the gap. Hello teachers, I am confused about the use of "imperative". For example, if I want to talk about things to do in my business as soon as possible, which sentence should I use? (1) It is imperative that all important measures be taken promptly. (2)It is imperative that all important measures are taken promptly. Should I use "be" or "are"? Or can I use either of them? Please enlighten me. Thank you very much in advance. Previous posts should have made clear that: In BE you can use either: (1) (be) sounds rather formal to some people's ears. In AE you need to use (1) (be); (2) (are) sounds jarring and illiterate in AE. So, Mitchell, the safe bet may be to use (1) (be), particularly as this seems to be an order, and it may not matter if orders sound formal. Thank you very much, teachers. It is very useful. Hello, I'd like to ask you, what question tag(s) should be used afer an imperative? "Shut up!? Somewhere I've read that it should be can or can't. What about a complex sentence, eg. "Don't be childish, phone her!" Should I form a question tag to "don't be childish" or to "phone her"? Thank you I wouldn't, Sidgrahm, but I have to I think your question's more complicated than it looks. Hotmale! I can imagine, in different circumstances, saying all of: Shut up, will you? Shut up, won't you? Shut up, can't you? In the context of a more "polite" command, I think my options would be: Pass me that spanner, will you? Pass me that spanner, would you? After a negative imperative, I think my only option is "will you" Don't go away, will you? As regards your particular complex sentence, I think I probably wouldn't use a question tag at all.... Thank you, Loob I guess all the question tags convey a slight difference in meaning I agreee with Mr Graham. I can't imagine using a "question tag" with "Shut up!" I might add something for emphasis, but it wouldn't be a question: "Shut up, please!" or "Shut up, dammit!" There're plenty of exercises on question tags in my book Thank you. Hi, Hotmale. There are things that cannot be tagged, just as there are things that cannot be done in "reported speech" without quotation marks. I'm curious what your book says. There is no standard way to "tag" an imperative, and a true imperative cannot be asked, either positively or negatively. Something like "Shut up, will you!" is just a rearrangement of "Will you shut up!" that we use when we want to "edit" an imperative after the fact to something more like a question. What would a "tag" with an imperative mean? Don't go away. You would? You'll stay, won't you? Or will you? Don't be childish. Won't you act more mature? Or can't you? Phone her, if you dare. Hi Ferero One book says: Exception #8 Request -> will you? Pass me the newspaper, will you? Don't be childish, will you. Then I began browsing other books and I found this explanation Informal questions/requests often use negative sentence+question tag. After imperatives, we can use "won't you" to invite people to do things, and will/would/can/could/can't to tell or ask people to tell or ask people to do things. Thank you again for you thorough explanation Hi all, I was reading my son's English homework and his teacher taught that the question tag for sentences like "come here", "take a seat", or "Do this for me" etc is always "will you", for example: Come here, will you? But is it true? I think in reality it's more flexible, like "can you", or even "won't you" seem possible to me. Am I right? Last edited by a moderator: Jul 18, 2016 As other have said above, you can add a number of 'tags' to imperatives. It is not clear to me that these act as tags in the same way as standard question tags. It's possible to argue that we are dealing with questions involving inversions. Come here, will you? = Will you come here? I can't find the difference between different question tags (if they're question tags at all). 'Close the door, will you/won't you?' 'Don't close the door, will you/won't you?' What's the difference in meaning between a positive and a negative tag used with imperative? You should examine what the tag question means. Close the door, can't you? Close the door [or] are you unable to do that? -> this is, usually but not always, said in anger. Close the door, can you? Close the door, is that possible for you? -> this is, usually but not always, said politely or neutrally. You will see that the tone of the question also gives the tag question its meaning. All of these sound angry to me, especially the positive ones. I think "Would you?" would be a better choice, but why not just "please"? Paul thank you, that's really helpful. They do sound angry, and I guess both the positive and negative ones can sound sarcastic if said with a certain tone. 'Would you' and 'please' sound like the most polite options. [Please note: this post and the following ones have been added to a previous thread in which the same question was asked. Please read down from the top. DonnyB moderator] Hey guys, I just want to ask about question tags with imperatives. I've been told by a friend that it's less common to use question tags with imperatives. However, in these examples: shut the door, would you? shut the door, could you? shut the door, will you? shut the door, can you? shut the door, can't you? shut the door, won't you? which sounds more natural to your ears? and what if the command was (don't shut the door), what literally changes in the question tag format? Thank you. Last edited by a moderator: Dec 19, 2018 "Shut the door, would you?" is fine. I suppose any of the other positive ones could be used as well, but they are far less likely. This isn't really a question tag in the usual sense, repeating the verb in the negative. Instead, it is moving the first part of the question to the end, so "Shut the door, would you?" really means "Would you shut the door?" The same pattern applies in the negative (except you would omit the auxiliary verb "do" in an ordinary question). However, "would", "could" and "can" all suggest that the person has already shut the door, or is in the process of doing so, which is an inappropriate situation for adding a question tag, meaning the only one that really works is "Don't shut the door, will you?" However, although this could be said, I doubt many people do. "Shut the door, would you?" is fine. I suppose any of the other positive ones could be used as well, but they are far less likely. This isn't really a question tag in the usual sense, repeating the verb in the negative. Instead, it is moving the first part of the question to the end, so "Shut the door, would you?" really means "Would you shut the door?" 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Anyways, why would I single out "will" as the most suitable among all with negative imperatives? still think that even "will", though rarely used, could still be inappropriate since the person would 've already shut the door. No. "Don't shut the door, will you?" can only be said if the person has not already shut the door, and is the only one of the alternatives that could be said when the other person has not even attempted to shut the door. If the other person has already started to shut the door, you would either say "Don't shut the door (please)" or "Could/can/would you not shut the door?". "Don't shut the door" is moving the first part of the question to the end, so "Shut the door, would you?" really means "Would you shut the door?" The same pattern applies in the negative (except you would omit the auxiliary verb "do" in an ordinary question). 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