

English / Communication	Verbal Phrases	
Date:	Exercise Sheet	

1. As a nurse, one of your key roles is to give information and instructions to patients and their family members. Read the concordance lines below and group the phrases in bold into two categories: Which ones can you use **to inform somebody about something** and which ones can you use **to give instructions**?

1. do not move your head. I need you to keep perfectly still. Don't move.
2. Christina: I'm sorry, but I have to ask one more time.
3. clean up with this patient. I have to take you up to surgery now, and I will ...
4. down beside an ambulance. I want you to slowly open your eyes and try to stay calm, ...
5. I'm sorry. I just ... wanted to make sure that you're okay. Are you okay?
6. Foreman: I'm sorry, but I'm gonna have to ask you to sign this.
7. Who are you with? Ok, I want you to stay right here, ok?
8. Ok sir, you're sweating. I need you to sit down, get back in the bed.
9. You wait right there! I want to talk to you!
10. Mm. (softly) I want you to continue to move your fingers while in the cast.
11. Cuddy: I need you to lie on your side. And hold your knees.
12. Okay. I want to ask you one more time... Are you absolutely sure?
13. could be a lengthy process. We're gonna have to run more tests.
14. Please stop! Erica: Mr. Arnold, I need you to calm down so that your heart can calm down.
15 They're not. Excuse me. I have to go check on my patient.

Phrases you use to inform a patient or a family member about something	Phrases to give a patient instructions

2. “Gonna have to”

You have probably noticed the expression “gonna have to” in the lines above. Pair up with your neighbor and talk about the following questions:

- What would you say about its tone? Is it rather formal or informal?
- In which kind of conversation is it appropriate to use this form?
- What is the formal version of the expression?

3. Exercise: Giving Instructions and Informing Someone

Complete the sentences by filling in the blanks with the correct phrases. Are you informing the patient about something or are you giving precise instructions? The first sentence is given as an example.

1. Nurse: I am here to help you. I need you to turn around, so I can check your back for a skin rash.
2. Patient [coughs]: I have a high temperature and a sore throat. Nurse: _____ cough for me, okay? And _____ take your temperature.
3. Nurse: It’s an infusion. _____ give it to you. All the rest of your symptoms should go away.
4. Patient [moans in pain]. Nurse: Look at me. _____ keep still while I dress the wound.
5. Nurse [holds out a cup with pills]: _____ to take them. They should help to control the pain.
6. Patient [tries to sit upright in bed]: I need to go to the toilet. Nurse: Sir, wait. I’m going to help you. _____ lie on your left side and then I can get you out of bed over its edge.
7. [Patient bell is ringing] Nurse: I’m sorry. I have to go now. _____ check on another patient.
8. Nurse: Good morning. I just _____ you were all right in here. Did your symptoms go away?
9. Patient: I am allergic to certain pain medications. Nurse: Ok, I am _____ get Dr. Amber. He will ask you more questions about your medical history.
10. Nurse: _____ talk to you about your seizures. Did you ever have problems like this before?