

# Subtle commands

We have all heard the expression:

*Que le vaya bien* – That it goes well for you and  
*Que tenga buen día* – Have a good day.

These are common forms of the subtle command.  
 The subtle command portrays an invitation to do something. When you begin the sentence with

que you are leaving out *quiero* = *I want*. This takes your personal desire out of the picture and makes the sentence more gentle. Note that subtle commands are used in all forms and usually are answers to a question: *¿Qué quiere que yo haga?* = *What do you want me to do?* ***Que limpie la cocina* = *That you clean the kitchen.***



## Answers on next page.

Use the **Ud.** form (*quiere*) for all you's.

- When you (*Ud.*) do want her to wash the clothes? ¿Cuándo quiere que ella lave la ropa?  
 That she wash it today. Que la lave hoy.
- What do you (*Ud.*) want Maria to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
 That she go shopping. \_\_\_\_\_ vaya de compras
- Which bill do you (*Ud.*) want me to pay? \_\_\_\_\_  
 That you (*Ud.*) pay the telephone bill. \_\_\_\_\_
- When do you (*Ud.*) want them (*m*) to fill the tank? \_\_\_\_\_  
 That they fill it tomorrow. \_\_\_\_\_
- When do you (*Ud.*) want Jose to come to work? \_\_\_\_\_  
 That he come tomorrow before noon. \_\_\_\_\_
- What do you (*Ud.*) want me to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
 That you (*Ud.*) prepare the food for tonight. \_\_\_\_\_
- What do you (*Ud.*) want us to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
 That you (*Uds.*) rest until lunch. \_\_\_\_\_
- At what time do you (*Ud.*) want them (*f*) to return? \_\_\_\_\_  
 That they return before midnight. \_\_\_\_\_
- What do you (*Ud.*) want me to read? \_\_\_\_\_  
 That you (*Ud.*) read this article about Mexico. \_\_\_\_\_
- What do you (*Ud.*) want me to tell the children (*m*)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 That they make less noise. \_\_\_\_\_ hagan menos ruido
- What does the teacher (*f*) want us to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
 That we study the lesson on page 30. \_\_\_\_\_
- Do we want them (*f*) to bring it to us? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yes, that they bring it to our house. \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you (*Ud.*) want Jose to wait for us. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yes, that he waits for us, please \_\_\_\_\_
- When do you (*Ud.*) want me to close the door? \_\_\_\_\_  
 That you (*Ud.*) close it now. \_\_\_\_\_

**to previous page**

As an oral exercise, cover the Spanish or English column and translate.

All you forms are UD.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. ¿Cuándo quiere Ud. que ella lave la ropa?<br>Que la lave hoy.                         | 1. When do you want her to wash the clothes?<br>That she wash it today.                       |
| 2. ¿Qué quiere Ud. que María haga?<br>Que vaya de compras.                               | 2. What do you want Maria to do?<br>That she go shopping.                                     |
| 3. ¿Cuál cuenta quiere Ud. que yo pague?<br>Que pague la cuenta de teléfono.             | 3. Which bill do you want me to pay?<br>That you pay the telephone bill.                      |
| 4. ¿Cuándo quiere Ud. que ellos llenen el tanque?<br>Que lo llenen mañana.               | 4. When do you want them ( <i>m</i> ) to fill the tank?<br>That they fill it tomorrow.        |
| 5. ¿Cuándo quiere Ud. que José venga a trabajar?<br>Que venga mañana antes del mediodía. | 5. When do you want Jose to come to work?<br>That he come tomorrow before noon.               |
| 6. ¿Qué quiere Ud. que yo haga?<br>Que prepare la comida para esta noche.                | 6. What do you want me to do?<br>That you prepare the food for tonight.                       |
| 7. ¿Qué quiere Ud. que hagamos?<br>Que descansen hasta la comida.                        | 7. What do you want us to do?<br>That you all rest until lunch.                               |
| 8. ¿A qué hora quiere Ud. que ellas regresen?<br>Que regresen antes de la medianoche.    | 8. At what time do you want them ( <i>f</i> ) to return?<br>That they return before midnight. |
| 9. ¿Qué quiere Ud. que yo lea?<br>Que lea este artículo sobre México.                    | 9. What do you want me to read?<br>That you read this article about Mexico.                   |
| 10. ¿Qué quiere Ud. que yo les diga a los niños?<br>Que hagan menos ruido.               | 10. What do you want me to tell the children ( <i>m</i> )?<br>That they make less noise.      |
| 11. ¿Qué quiere la maestra que hagamos?<br>Que estudiemos la lección en la página 30.    | 11. What does the teacher want us to do?<br>That we study the lesson on page 30.              |
| 12. ¿Queremos que ellas nos lo traigan?<br>Sí, que lo traigan a nuestra casa.            | 12. Do we want them ( <i>f</i> ) to bring it to us?<br>Yes, that they bring it to our house.  |
| 13. ¿Quiere Ud. que José nos espere?<br>Sí, que nos espere, por favor.                   | 13. Do you want Jose to wait for us?<br>That he wait for us, please.                          |
| 14. ¿Cuándo quiere Ud. que yo cierre la puerta?<br>Que la cierre ahora.                  | 14. When do you want me to close the door?<br>That you close it now.                          |