

LET US OR LET'S + bare infinitive

"*Let us go to the cinema*" or "*Let's go to the cinema*"

Let us is the first person plural imperative, which we only use in very formal situations.

Let's is the short form, which we often **use to make an exhortation** which include ourselves:

*It's midday. **Let's** stop now and have some lunch, shall we?*

Not: ~~*Lets stop now ...*~~

*Okay. We're all ready. **Let's** go.*

We also use *let me* (the first person singular imperative) to give a direct, more formal suggestion or offer:

Let me move these books out of your way.

We use *let* for third person imperatives and for impersonal imperatives:

Let them walk home on their own. (third person)

Let there be no doubt about it. (impersonal)

There are two negative forms of *let's*: *let's not* and *don't let's*. *Let's not* is more common:

Let's not argue about money. We can share the costs.

Don't let's throw away the good books with the damaged ones. We can sell them.

We can use the full forms *let us*, *let us not* and *do not let us* in very formal situations such as political documents and speeches, and religious and other ceremonies:

Let us remember all those who have died in this terrible conflict.

We must forgive, but **let us not** forget, what happened on that day ten years ago.

Do not let us deceive ourselves that our economic problems can be easily solved.

Adapted from <<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/grammar/british-grammar/let-let-s>>