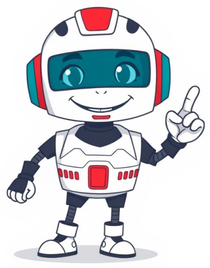
I'm not a robot



Verbs are essential to creating complete sentences, as they help us express physical actions (She jumped in the puddle), mental actions (He thought about puppies), and states of being (I am hungry). There are several types of verbs that can each be written in different tenses, so they can be tricky to work with, especially if English isn't your first language. We've put together a guide to help you use one of the most common verbs, do, in your writing. Read on below to learn more! As the name suggests, action verbs are used to express actions completed by the subject of a sentence. The base verb do is conjugated according to the tense: 1. Present Tense In the present tense, do takes the form do or does, depending on the subject: Subject:Verb:I/you/we/theyDoHe/she/itDoes Consider the following examples: We do our homework every night. She does her homework every night. 2. Past Tense In the simple past tense, the base verb do takes the form did with all subjects: Subject:Verb:I/you/we/theyDidHe/she/itDid Consider the following examples: We did our homework last night. She did her homework last night. Auxiliary, or helping verbs, are used with another base verb to create negative sentences, questions, or add emphasis. Here's how do should be used as an auxiliary verb: 1. Negative Sentences Following the same subject–verb pairings introduced above, we combine the auxiliaries do, does, and did with the adverb not to create negative sentences: We do not do our homework every night. She did not do her homework last night. Note that we can combine the auxiliary and the adverb to create the contractions don't, doesn't, and didn't. You simply remove the space between the two words and replace the letter o in not with an apostrophe ('). Contractions are more common in conversations and informal writing and typically shouldn't be used in formal writing (e.g., academic or business). 2. Questions To create questions, the auxiliary is combined with the infinitive of another verb in this way: auxiliary verb + subject + infinitive verb. ● Simple present questions: Do they sell children's books? Does he speak English? Note that the third person verb speaks isn't spelled with the s when paired with the auxiliary to form a question. ● Simple past questions: Did you buy anything at the bookstore? Did he learn how to speak English? Note that did indicates the past tense, so the main verbs don't also take the past tense (i.e., bought and learned). 3. Emphasis In positive sentences, we can also combine the auxiliaries do, does, and did with the main verb to emphasize that something is true: We do sell children's books. He did learn to speak English. Try saying these sentences aloud and adding emphasis to the auxiliary terms with your tone. It adds a dramatic effect! Proofreading and Editing Services Hopefully, this guide will help you feel more confident when using different forms of the verb do in your writing. If you're still learning or want to be sure your work is error-free, our editors are ready to help. You can upload a free trial document today to learn more! a form of the present tense (indicative mood) of do 1"Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged" 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012taboo, a foolish or despicable person"Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged" 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012Examples are provided to illustrate real-world usage of words in context. Any opinions expressed do not reflect the views of Dictionary.com.He often doesn't think of others and does what he wants, often without caring about consequences.Read more on Los Angeles TimesWhen a manager does that, I start to wonder how long he will hang around.Or will it be the likes of Cursor, which hosts the software built by others that does most of the programming magic?Read more on The Wall Street JournalWhile it does not involve dramatic structural changes, the team still observed meaningful shifts in network organization.Read more on Science DailyThose have their drawbacks but can be useful for someone who does not have a lot of cash.door and gonedoeskinBrowse#aabbccddeeffgghhiijjkkllmmnnooppqqrrssttuuvvwwxxyyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC verb jump to other results do1 Nearby words doek noun doer noun does verb doesn't short form dof adjective Impressionism noun From the Topic Art C1 Oxford Learner's Dictionaries Word of the Day To make a question in English we normally use Do or Does. It is normally put at the beginning of the question (before the subject). Affirmative: You speak Spanish.Question: Do you speak Spanish? You will see that we add DO at the beginning of the affirmative sentence to make it a question. We use Do when the subject is I, you, we or they. Affirmative: He speaks Spanish.Question: Does he speak Spanish? When the subject is he, she or it, we add DOES at the beginning to make the affirmative sentence a question. Notice that the letter S at the end of the verb in the affirmative sentence (because it is in third person) disappears in the question. We will see the reason why below. We DON'T use Do or Does in questions that have the verb To Be or Modal Verbs (can, must, might, should etc.) The following is the word order to construct a basic question in English using Do or Does. Do/Does Subject Verb* The rest of the sentence Do I / you / we / they have / buyeat / like etc. cereal for breakfast? Does he / she / it *Verb: The verb that goes here is the base form of the infinitive = The infinitive without TO before the verb. Instead of the infinitive To have it is just the have part. Remember that the infinitive is the verb before it is conjugated (changed) and it begins with TO. For example: to have, to eat, to go, to live, to speak etc. Examples of Questions with Do and Does: Do you speak English? Does John speak French? Do we have time for a quick drink? Does it rain a lot in the South? Do they want to come with me? Does she like chocolate? Short Answers with Do and Does In questions that use do/does it is possible to give short answers to direct questions as follows: Sample Questions Short Answer(Affirmative) Short Answer(Negative) Do you speak English? Yes, I do. No, I don't. Do I need a dictionary? Yes, you do. No, you don't. Do you both speak English? Yes, we do. No, we don't. Do they speak English? Yes, they do. No, they don't. Does he speak English? Yes, he does. No, he doesn't. Does she speak English? Yes, she does. No, she doesn't. Does it have four legs? Yes, it does. No, it doesn't. However, if a question word such as who, when, where, why, which or how is used in the question, you can not use the short answers above to respond to the question. Question Words with Do and Does The order for making sentences with Questions words is the following: Question Word Do/Does Subject Verb What do you have for breakfast? What does she have for breakfast? Where do you live? When do you study? How do you spell your name? Practice Exercises Try our interactive game to practice Do and Does in Questions. See our notes about the difference between Do, Does, Did and Done. If you found this grammar guide about Do and Does in English useful, let others know about it. If you've ever stopped mid-sentence wondering, "Do I say 'Do he play?' or 'Does he play?'" — you're not alone. Do VS Does with their comparison chart and full guidelines I will share in this content. Many English learners (and even native speakers) get confused about when to use do and when to use does.Both words are forms of the verb "to do," and they play important roles in forming questions, negatives, emphasis, and more.In this complete guide on Do vs Does, you'll learn:What do and does actually mean (definitions)The grammar rules of do and doesA simple comparison chart you can memorizeOver 40 real-life examplesPractice exercises with answersCommon mistakes (and how to fix them)This article is designed for ESL learners, teachers, exam-takers, and English grammar lovers who want a clear, structured, and visual way to master "do vs does."Do and Does — Definition & FunctionBefore diving into rules, let's understand what do and does actually are.What is "do/does" as an auxiliary verb?As auxiliary verbs (also called helping verbs), do and does are used in the present simple tense to:Make questionsMake negativesAdd emphasisExamples:Do you like pizza? (question)He does not like rain. (negative)I do understand you. (emphasis)What is "do/does" as a main verb?As main verbs, do and does mean perform / carry out / complete an action.Examples:I do my homework every evening.She does the dishes after dinner.Rules of Do and DoesNow, let's break down the grammar rules step by step.Subject–Verb Agreement (Core Rule)Subject TypeUseI / you / we / theydohe / she / it / singular nounsdoesplural nouns (dogs, people, cars)domost singular indefinite pronouns (everyone, someone, nobody)doesExamples:I do yoga every morning.He does yoga every morning.They do yoga together.The teacher does a great job.Edge Cases You Must KnowCaseRuleExampleSingular "they"Takes doThey do their best.Collective nouns (team, staff)Usually does in American English; can be do in British EnglishThe team does practice. / The team do practice.Indefinite pronounsEveryone / someone / no one → does Many / few → doEveryone does agree. Few do disagree.Tricky singularsWords like news, mathematics are singular → doesThe news does spread quickly.Forming Affirmative SentencesIn simple present tense, do/does is not needed in affirmative sentences unless for emphasis.SubjectExampleI / we / theyThey play football.he / she / itShe plays football.Only use "do/does" in affirmatives for emphasis:I do enjoy my job.He does work hard.Forming NegativesWe use do not (don't) or does not (doesn't) + base verb.SubjectNegative FormExampleI / you / we / theydo not / don't + base verbThey don't eat meat.he / she / itdoes not / doesn't + base verbShe doesn't like coffee.Important: She doesn't likes tea. → Wrong She doesn't like tea. → CorrectForming QuestionsStructure: Do / Does + Subject + Base Verb?ExampleDo they work here?Does she live in New York?Do you play the guitar?Subject Questions (No Do/Does)When who / what is the subject, we do not use do/does:Who called you?What makes you happy?Who does call you? → Only used for emphasis.Short Answers & Tag QuestionsQuestionShort AnswerTagDo you like ice cream?Yes, I do.You like ice cream, don't you?Does he work here?No, he doesn't.He works here, doesn't he?Emphatic "Do/Does"Use "do/does" to show strong feeling or contrast.I do care!She does know the answer.He does love you.Imperatives (Commands)We can use do in polite or emphatic commands. "Does" is not used in imperatives.Do sit down.Do help yourself to some cake.Ellipsis / Substitution with "do"We can avoid repeating verbs using do/does.He likes jazz, and so do I.She loves reading, and so does Tom.I don't like it, and neither does she.Inversion After NegativesWe use do/does after certain negative adverbs (rarely, never, not only, seldom):Not only does she speak English, she also speaks Spanish.Rarely do they complain.Differences Between Do and DoesLet's summarize the key differences.Person & NumberSubjectCorrect VerbI / you / we / theydohe / she / it / singular nounsdoesForm & SpellingBaseNegativeContractiondodo notdon'tdoesdoes notdoesn'tAfter "doesn't," the main verb must be in base form (no "-s").Use in Emphasis & StyleI do want to go! → EmphasisHe does care! → Strong emotionBoth do and does add strength or contrast to a sentence.Do vs Does With Comparison ChartSubjectAuxiliaryAffirmativeNegativeQuestionShort AnswerIdoI do play.I don't play.Do I play?Yes, I do.youdoYou do work.You don't work.Do you work?No, you don't.wedoWe do agree.We don't agree.Do we agree?Yes, we do.theydoThey do study.They don't study.Do they study?Yes, they do.hedoesHe does run.He doesn't run.Does he run?No, he doesn't.shedoesShe does help.She doesn't help.Does she help?Yes, she does.itdoesIt does work.It doesn't work.Does it work?No, it doesn't.everyonedoesEveryone does agree.Everyone doesn't agree.Does everyone agree?Yes, everyone does.the team (AmE)doesThe team does train.The team doesn't train.Does the team train?Yes, it does.the policedoThe police do investigate.The police don't investigate.Do the police investigate?Yes, they do.Do and Does ExamplesLet's look at 40+ real-world examples.Everyday Conversation (10)Do you like pizza?She does yoga every morning.We do our shopping on Sundays.He doesn't drink coffee.Do they know each other?Does it hurt?I do my best every day.She doesn't talk much.Do you understand?Yes, I do.Academic / Workplace (10)Does the report include financial data?We do weekly team meetings.He does research in physics.The students do homework daily.Do you have any questions?She doesn't miss deadlines.The manager does performance reviews.Do you submit your assignments on time?It does improve productivity.The company does support remote work.Emphatic & Stylistic (8)I do want to help.He does care about you.She does understand the problem.They do believe in fairness.We do appreciate your effort.It does make a difference.I do agree with you.He does know the answer.Subject Questions vs Auxiliary Questions (6)Who called you? (subject question)What makes her happy?Who does call you every day? (emphasis only)What does she eat for lunch? (auxiliary question)Who does know the truth? (emphatic tone)What do they do on weekends?Exercise of Do and Does (with Answer Key)Let's test what you've learned!Beginner — Fill in the Blanks___ they play football?He ___ not eat meat.We ___ go to school every day.___ she work here?I ___ like ice cream.___ you know the answer?She ___ her homework.They ___ not speak English.___ it make sense?The teacher ___ a great job.Intermediate — Correct the Error (10)She doesn't likes tea.Do he play the guitar?They doesn't agree.Does you understand?He do his homework.The students does not talk.It don't make sense.Does she plays tennis?We doesn't go out.Everyone do know that.Advanced — Transformations (8)(Statement → Question) They play cricket. → _____(Question → Negative) Does he cook? → _____(Add emphasis) She likes music. → _____(Use ellipsis) I enjoy reading. → _____(Use "neither") I don't swim. → _____(Add tag) You do your work, _____? (Subject question) _____ calls you every day?(Negative inversion) _____ do they miss class.Answers:Here are the correct answers with explanations:___ he play football?b) DoesWe use does with singular third-person (he, she, it).They ___ not like spicy food.b) do"They" is plural, so we use do.Which sentence is correct?b) She doesn't like tea.After doesn't, we use the base form of the verb (like, not likes).___ you understand the rules?b) Do"You" takes do.Everyone ___ know the answer.b) does"Everyone" is treated as singular, so we use does.Which is correct?a) What makes you happy?The auxiliary "does" is not needed here. The subject "what" already works with "makes." ___ the students study English?a) Do"Students" is plural, so we use do.The police ___ arrive on time.a) do"The police" is considered plural, so we use do.Intermediate:She doesn't like tea.Does he play the guitar?They don't agree.Do you understand?He does his homework.The students do not talk.It doesn't make sense.Does she play tennis?We don't go out.Everyone does know that.Advanced:Do they play cricket?He doesn't cook.She does like music.I enjoy reading, and so does she.Neither do I.don't you?Who calls you every day?Rarely do they miss class.Common Mistakes & How to Fix Them Wrong CorrectWhy?She doesn't likes tea.She doesn't like tea.Main verb must be in base form.People does agree.People do agree.Plural subjects use do.Who does call you? (normal question)Who calls you?No do/does when who is subject.He don't work here.He doesn't work here.Singular 3rd person → doesn't.Singular "they" does their job.Singular "they" do their job."They" (even singular) takes do.Quick Reference: Do vs Does RulesUse do with I, you, we, they, plural nounsUse does with he, she, it, singular nounsUse do not / don't or does not / doesn't to form negativesAfter does/doesn't, use the base verb (no -s)Use do/does + subject + base verb to form questionsNever use do/does in subject questions like Who called?Use do/does for emphasis: I do agree.Use so/neither + do/does + subject to avoid repetitionFAQs — Do vs DoesIs "does" singular or plural?Does is used with singular third-person subjects (he, she, it, a student, a cat). Example: She does her homework.When do we use "do" vs "does" in questions?Use do with I/you/we/they: Do you like chocolate? Use does with he/she/it: Does she play tennis?Can we use "does" for emphasis?Yes Understanding the proper use of 'do,' 'does,' and 'did' is fundamental to constructing grammatically correct and clear sentences in English. These auxiliary verbs play crucial roles in forming questions, negations, and emphatic statements. Mastering their usage not only enhances writing and speaking skills but also prevents common errors that can lead to miscommunication. This article provides a comprehensive guide to these essential verbs, exploring their definitions, structural rules, variations, and practical applications. This guide is beneficial for English language learners of all levels, from beginners to advanced speakers, as well as educators seeking a structured resource for teaching these concepts. This article will guide you through the intricate uses of 'do,' 'does,' and 'did,' ensuring you grasp their functions and applications with confidence. We'll explore their roles in forming questions, negations, and emphatic statements, providing numerous examples and practice exercises to solidify your understanding. Table of Contents Definition of 'Do,' 'Does,' and 'Did' 'Do,' 'does,' and 'did' are auxiliary verbs (also known as helping verbs) in English. They are primarily used to form questions, negative statements, and emphatic assertions. They also function as substitute verbs to avoid repetition. 'Do' and 'does' are used in the present simple tense, while 'did' is used in the past simple tense. Understanding their specific roles is crucial for accurate and effective communication. These verbs don't carry a specific meaning in the same way that action verbs like 'run' or 'eat' do. Instead, they provide grammatical support to the main verb in a sentence, indicating tense, negation, or emphasis. Their correct usage is essential for constructing grammatically sound sentences. Structural Breakdown The structural usage of 'do,' 'does,' and 'did' depends heavily on the tense of the sentence. 'Do' and 'does' operate within the present simple tense, while 'did' is exclusive to the past simple tense. Each form has specific subject-verb agreement rules that must be followed. Present Simple: 'Do' and 'Does' In the present simple tense, 'do' is used with the first-person singular (I), second-person singular and plural (you), and third-person plural (they). 'Does' is used with the third-person singular (he, she, it). This distinction is crucial for maintaining subject-verb agreement. The basic structure for forming questions in the present simple is: Do/Does + Subject + Main Verb (base form)?. For negative sentences, the structure is: Subject + Do/Does + Not + Main Verb (base form). Past Simple: 'Did' 'Did' is used for all subjects (I, you, he, she, it, we, they) in the past simple tense. This simplifies sentence construction as there is no subject-verb agreement to consider beyond tense. It is used to form questions and negative statements in the past. The structure for forming questions in the past simple is: Did + Subject + Main Verb (base form)?. For negative sentences, the structure is: Subject + Did + Not + Main Verb (base form). Types and Categories of Usage 'Do,' 'does,' and 'did' are versatile auxiliary verbs with several key functions in English grammar. They are primarily used in questions, negations, emphatic statements, and short answers. Each category has specific rules and structures that must be followed to ensure grammatical accuracy. Forming Questions One of the primary uses of 'do,' 'does,' and 'did' is to form interrogative sentences (questions) in the present simple and past simple tenses. They precede the subject and are followed by the base form of the main verb. The choice between 'do,' 'does,' and 'did' depends on the tense and the subject of the sentence. For example, "Do you like coffee?" (present simple, second-person singular), "Does she play the piano?" (present simple, third-person singular), and "Did they go to the park?" (past simple, all subjects). Forming Negations These auxiliary verbs are also used to create negative sentences. They are followed by 'not,' which can be contracted to 'n't' to form 'don't,' 'doesn't,' and 'didn't.' The structure involves placing 'do/does/did + not' between the subject and the base form of the main verb. For instance, "I do not (don't) like spicy food," "He does not (doesn't) speak French," and "We did not (didn't) finish the project." The contracted forms are more common in spoken English and informal writing. Emphatic Statements 'Do,' 'does,' and 'did' can be used to add emphasis to a statement. In this case, they are placed before the main verb in an affirmative sentence to highlight the truth or importance of the action. This usage is often used to contradict a previous statement or to express surprise or insistence. For example, "I do want to go to the party!" (emphasizing the desire to go), "She does understand the instructions" (contradicting an assumption that she doesn't), and "They did complete the assignment" (highlighting the completion of the task). Short Answers In short answers to yes/no questions, 'do,' 'does,' and 'did' are used to avoid repeating the main verb. The short answer includes 'yes' or 'no,' followed by the subject pronoun and the appropriate auxiliary verb. For example, "Do you like pizza?" – "Yes, I do" or "No, I don't." "Does he play guitar?" – "Yes, he does" or "No, he doesn't." "Did they watch the movie?" – "Yes, they did" or "No, they didn't." 'Do', 'does', and 'did' also function as auxiliary verbs in tag questions. Tag questions are short questions added to the end of a statement, used to confirm information or seek agreement. The auxiliary verb in the tag question must match the tense and subject of the main statement. READ MORE : Mastering "Concerning": Sentence Examples and UsageFor example, "You like coffee, don't you?" "She plays the piano, doesn't she?" "They went to the park, didn't they?" The tag question uses the opposite polarity of the main statement (positive statement, negative tag; negative statement, positive tag). Examples The following sections provide extensive examples of 'do,' 'does,' and 'did' in various contexts, including questions, negations, emphatic statements, and short answers. These examples illustrate the correct usage and help to solidify understanding. Examples in Questions The table below illustrates the use of 'do,' 'does,' and 'did' in forming questions. Note the subject-verb agreement and tense consistency in each example. Question Tense Subject Do you speak Spanish? Present Simple You Does she work here? Present Simple She Do they live in London? Present Simple They Did he call you yesterday? Past Simple He Did we finish the report? Past Simple We Do I need to bring anything? Present Simple I Does it rain often in April? Present Simple It Do the students understand the lesson? Present Simple The students Did the train arrive on time? Past Simple The train Do we have enough time? Present Simple We Does the sun rise in the east? Present Simple The sun Did you enjoy the concert? Past Simple You Do they know the answer? Present Simple They Does he like to read books? Present Simple He Did she remember to lock the door? Past Simple She Do we have to wear a uniform? Present Simple We Does the cat sleep all day? Present Simple The cat Did the children eat their vegetables? Past Simple The children Do you believe in ghosts? Present Simple You Does the store open early? Present Simple The store Did the meeting start on time? Past Simple The meeting Do they sell tickets online? Present Simple They Does he play any sports? Present Simple He Did she study for the exam? Past Simple She Do we need to make a reservation? Present Simple We Does the dog bark at strangers? Present Simple The dog Did the flowers bloom in the spring? Past Simple The flowers Do you understand the question? Present Simple You Does the computer need an update? Present Simple The computer Examples in Negations This table demonstrates the use of 'do,' 'does,' and 'did' in forming negative sentences. Observe the correct placement of 'not' and the use of contractions. Negative Sentence Tense Subject I do not (don't) like coffee. Present Simple I She does not (doesn't) work here. Present Simple She They do not (don't) live in London. Present Simple They He did not (didn't) call me yesterday. Past Simple He We did not (didn't) finish the report. Past Simple We I do not (don't) need to bring anything. Present Simple I It does not (doesn't) rain often in April. Present Simple It The students do not (don't) understand the lesson. Present Simple The students The train did not (didn't) arrive on time. Past Simple The train We do not (don't) have enough time. Present Simple We The sun does not (doesn't) rise in the west. Present Simple The sun You did not (didn't) enjoy the concert. Past Simple You They do not (don't) know the answer. Present Simple They He does not (doesn't) like to read books. Present Simple He She did not (didn't) remember to lock the door. Past Simple She We do not (don't) have to wear a uniform. Present Simple We The cat does not (doesn't) sleep all day. Present Simple The cat The children did not (didn't) eat their vegetables. Past Simple The children I do not (don't) believe in ghosts. Present Simple I The store does not (doesn't) open early. Present Simple The store The meeting did not (didn't) start on time. Past Simple The meeting They do not (don't) sell tickets online. Present Simple They He does not (doesn't) play any sports. Present Simple He She did not (didn't) study for the exam. Past Simple She We do not (don't) need to make a reservation. Present Simple We The dog does not (doesn't) bark at strangers. Present Simple The dog The flowers did not (didn't) bloom in the winter. Past Simple The flowers You do not (don't) understand the question. Present Simple You The computer does not (doesn't) need an update. Present Simple The computer Examples in Emphatic Statements The following examples show how 'do,' 'does,' and 'did' are used to emphasize a statement. Notice that the auxiliary verb is stressed when spoken. Emphatic Statement Tense Subject I do want to go to the party! Present Simple I She does understand the instructions. Present Simple She They do care about the environment. Present Simple They He did finish his homework. Past Simple He We did try our best. Past Simple We I do appreciate your help. Present Simple I It does make a difference. Present Simple It The students do need more practice. Present Simple The students The train did arrive on time after all. Past Simple The train We do need to leave now. Present Simple We The sun does shine brightly today. Present Simple The sun You did look beautiful last night. Past Simple You They do deserve the award. Present Simple They He does know the answer. Present Simple He She did remember to bring the cake. Past Simple She We do have to follow the rules. Present Simple We The cat does like to play with yarn. Present Simple The cat The children did behave well at the restaurant. Past Simple The children I do believe in second chances. Present Simple I The store does offer great discounts. Present Simple The store The meeting did end on a positive note. Past Simple The meeting They do sell delicious pastries. Present Simple They He does enjoy playing the piano. Present Simple He She did study hard for the test. Past Simple She We do want to support local businesses. Present Simple We The dog does listen to commands. Present Simple The dog The flowers did smell wonderful in the garden. Past Simple The flowers You do understand the importance of education. Present Simple You The computer does need regular maintenance. Present Simple The computer READ MORE : Other Ways to Say "It Was Nice Talking to You"Examples in Short Answers This table illustrates the correct format for short answers using 'do,' 'does,' and 'did.' Note the agreement between the auxiliary verb and the subject pronoun. Question Short Answer (Yes) Short Answer (No) Do you like coffee? Yes, I do. No, I don't. Does she work here? Yes, she does. No, she doesn't. Do they live in London? Yes, they do. No, they don't. Did he call you yesterday? Yes, he did. No, he didn't. Did we finish the report? Yes, we did. No, we didn't. Do I need to bring anything? Yes, you do. No, you don't. Does it rain often in April? Yes, it does. No, it doesn't. Do the students understand the lesson? Yes, they do. No, they don't. Did the train arrive on time? Yes, it did. No, it didn't. Do we have enough time? Yes, we do. No, we don't. Does the sun rise in the east? Yes, it does. No, it doesn't. Did you enjoy the concert? Yes, I did. No, I didn't. Do they know the answer? Yes, they do. No, they don't. Does he like to read books? Yes, he does. No, he doesn't. Did she remember to lock the door? Yes, she did. No, she didn't. Do we have to wear a uniform? Yes, we do. No, we don't. Does the cat sleep all day? Yes, it does. No, it doesn't. Did the children eat their vegetables? Yes, they did. No, they didn't. Do you believe in ghosts? Yes, I do. No, I don't. Does the store open early? Yes, it does. No, it doesn't. Did the meeting start on time? Yes, it did. No, it didn't. Do they sell tickets online? Yes, they do. No, they don't. Does he play any sports? Yes, he does. No, he doesn't. Did she study for the exam? Yes, she did. No, she didn't. Do we need to make a reservation? Yes, we do. No, we don't. Does the dog bark at strangers? Yes, it does. No, it doesn't. Did the flowers bloom in the spring? Yes, they did. No, they didn't. Do you understand the question? Yes, I do. No, I don't. Does the computer need an update? Yes, it does. No, it doesn't. Examples in Tag Questions This table provides examples of tag questions using 'do,' 'does,' and 'did.' Notice how the auxiliary verb and pronoun in the tag question match the main statement, and the polarity is reversed. Statement Tag Question You like coffee, don't you? She works here, doesn't she? They live in London, don't they? He called you yesterday, didn't he? We finished the report, didn't we? I need to bring something, don't I? It rains often in April, doesn't it? The students understand the lesson, don't they? The train arrived on time, didn't it? We have enough time, don't we? The sun rises in the east, doesn't it? You enjoyed the concert, didn't you? They know the answer, don't they? He likes to read books, doesn't he? She remembered to lock the door, didn't she? We have to wear a uniform, don't we? The cat sleeps all day, doesn't it? The children ate their vegetables, didn't they? You believe in ghosts, don't you? The store opens early, doesn't it? The meeting started on time, didn't it? They sell tickets online, don't they? He plays any sports, doesn't he? She studied for the exam, didn't she? We need to make a reservation, don't we? The dog barks at strangers, doesn't it? The flowers bloomed in the spring, didn't they? You understand the question, don't you? The computer needs an update, doesn't it? Usage Rules To use 'do,' 'does,' and 'did' correctly, it's essential to follow certain grammatical rules. These include subject-verb agreement, tense consistency, and avoiding double negatives. Adhering to these rules will ensure clarity and accuracy in your writing and speech. Subject-verb agreement is crucial when using 'do' and 'does' in the present simple tense. 'Do' is used with plural subjects (I, you, we, they) and 'does' is used with singular third-person subjects (he, she, it). This agreement must be maintained to avoid grammatical errors. For example: "I do my homework every day," "She does her best in every task," "They do not understand the instructions." In contrast, 'did' does not require subject-verb agreement, as it is used for all subjects in the past simple tense. Tense Consistency Maintaining tense consistency is vital for clear communication. When using 'do,' 'does,' or 'did,' ensure that the rest of the sentence is in the appropriate tense. Mixing tenses can lead to confusion and misinterpretation. For example, if you start a sentence with 'did' (past simple), the main verb should be in its base form, as 'did' already indicates the past tense: "Did you go to the store?" (correct) vs. "Did you went to the store?" (incorrect). Similarly, with 'do' and 'does,' the main verb should be in its base form. Avoiding Double Negatives Avoid using double negatives with 'do,' 'does,' and 'did.' A double negative occurs when two negative words are used in the same clause, which can unintentionally create a positive meaning or cause confusion. Always use only one negative element. For example, "I don't know nothing" is incorrect. The correct sentence is "I don't know anything" or "I know nothing." The auxiliary verb 'do' with 'not' already provides the negation, so no additional negative words are needed. Common Mistakes Several common mistakes can occur when using 'do,' 'does,' and 'did.' These often involve incorrect subject-verb agreement, improper tense usage, or the use of double negatives. Recognizing and correcting these errors is essential for improving grammatical accuracy. Incorrect: "He do like pizza." Correct: "He does like pizza." (Subject-verb agreement) Incorrect: "Did you saw the movie?" Correct: "Did you see the movie?" (Base form of the verb after 'did') Incorrect: "I don't know nothing." Correct: "I don't know anything." (Avoiding double negatives) READ MORE : Polite Ways to Say "Please Wait" in an EmailIncorrect: "She don't want to go." Correct: "She doesn't want to go." (Subject-verb agreement) Incorrect: "Do he play soccer?" Correct: "Does he play soccer?" (Subject-verb agreement in questions) Practice Exercises The following exercises provide opportunities to practice using 'do,' 'does,' and 'did' in various contexts. Completing these exercises will help reinforce your understanding and improve your ability to use these auxiliary verbs correctly. Exercise 1: Fill in the Blanks Fill in the blanks with the correct form of 'do,' 'does,' or 'did.' Sentence Answer _____ you like to dance? Do She _____ not want to come. does _____ they go to the beach yesterday? Did He _____ not understand the question. does _____ we need to buy groceries? Do It _____ not matter to me. does _____ you finish your homework? Did They _____ not live here anymore. do _____ she speak French? Does We _____ not have any pets. do Exercise 2: Correct the Errors Identify and correct the errors in the following sentences. Explain why each sentence was incorrect and provide the corrected version. Incorrect Sentence Correction Explanation He do not like coffee. He does not like coffee. Subject-verb agreement: 'He' requires 'does.' Did she went to the store? Did she go to the store? Base form of the verb after 'did.' They doesn't want to come. They don't want to come. Subject-verb agreement: 'They' requires 'don't.' Do he know the answer? Does he know the answer? Subject-verb agreement: 'He' requires 'does.' She did not finished the book. She did not finish the book. Base form of the verb after 'did.' I don't need nothing. I don't need anything. Avoiding double negatives. Does they play soccer? Do they play soccer? Subject-verb agreement: 'They' requires 'do.' He didn't saw the game. He didn't see the game. Base form of the verb after 'did.' We does not understand. We do not understand. Subject-verb agreement: 'We' requires 'do.' Did you ate dinner? Did you eat dinner? Base form of the verb after 'did.' Exercise 3: Sentence Transformation Transform the following sentences according to the instructions provided. Pay attention to the correct usage of 'do,' 'does,' and 'did.' Change "You like chocolate" into a question. Do you like chocolate? Change "She plays the piano" into a negative sentence. She does not play the piano. Change "They went to the park" into a question. Did they go to the park? Change "He understands the lesson" into an emphatic statement. He does understand the lesson! Change "We need to leave" into a negative sentence. We do not need to leave. Change "I believe in ghosts" into a question. Do you believe in ghosts? Change "The cat sleeps all day" into a negative sentence. The cat does not sleep all day. Change "The children ate their vegetables" into a question. Did the children eat their vegetables? Change "You understand the question" into an emphatic statement. You do understand the question! Change "The computer needs an update" into a negative sentence. The computer does not need an update. Advanced Topics For advanced learners, understanding inversion and elliptical clauses involving 'do,' 'does,' and 'did' can further refine their grasp of English grammar. These constructions are less common but important for recognizing nuanced language use. Inversion with 'Do,' 'Does,' and 'Did' Inversion involves changing the typical subject-verb order in a sentence. It is often used with negative adverbs or adverbial phrases to add emphasis or formality. 'Do,' 'does,' and 'did' play a crucial role in forming inverted sentences. Example: "Never did I see such a beautiful sight." Here, 'did' is used to invert the subject 'I' and the verb 'see,' emphasizing the rarity of the experience. Other examples include: "Rarely does he visit," and "Under no circumstances did they agree." Elliptical Clauses Elliptical clauses are clauses where some words are omitted because they are understood from the context. 'Do,' 'does,' and 'did' are often used in elliptical clauses to avoid repetition, making the sentence more concise. Example: "I like coffee, and so does she." The elliptical clause "so does she" omits the verb "like coffee" because it is already clear from the first clause. Other examples include: "He didn't go to the party, but she did," and "If you need help, just ask; I do mind helping." FAQ Use 'do' with the pronouns I, you, we, and they. Use 'does' with the pronouns he, she, and it. 'Does' is used for third-person singular subjects in the present simple tense. Can 'did' be used with all subjects? Yes, 'did' is used with all subjects (I, you, he, she, it, we, they) in the past simple tense. Is it ever correct to use double negatives with 'do,' 'does,' or 'did'? No, double negatives are generally incorrect and should be avoided. They can create confusion and change the intended meaning of the sentence. How can I emphasize a statement using 'do,' 'does,' or 'did'? Place 'do,' 'does,' or 'did' before the base form of the main verb in an affirmative sentence. This adds emphasis and can be used to contradict a previous statement or express surprise. What is the correct structure for forming questions using 'do,' 'does,' or 'did'? The structure is 'Do/Does/Did + Subject + Main Verb (base form)?' The choice between 'do,' 'does,' and 'did' depends on the tense and subject of the sentence. Conclusion Mastering the use of 'do,' 'does,' and 'did' is crucial for constructing grammatically correct and clear sentences in English. These auxiliary verbs play essential roles in forming questions, negations, emphatic statements, and short answers. By understanding their definitions, structural rules, and various applications, you can enhance your writing and speaking skills and avoid common errors. Continue to practice and apply these concepts in your daily communication to solidify your understanding and achieve fluency in English. With consistent effort, you'll confidently navigate the intricacies of these essential verbs and express yourself with precision and clarity. Mastering 'Do,' 'Does,' and 'Did': Usage and Examples We've understood, then, that using do and does in questions is essential, as well as in short answers and negations. But how do you do it? Let's take a look at it together.First, the difference between do and does is that we use:Do for the first and second person singular, the first, second, and third person plural.(I, you, we, you, they)Does for the third person singular(she, he, it)He do does his homework .That said, the structure of the questions should be as follows:Auxiliary Do/Does + Subject + Main verb + Object or other complements + ?Do you live in Australia? →Do they know our address? → Do they know our address?Does she want another cookie? → Does she want another cookie?When questions use interrogative words (when, who, what, why, how), do and does are used as auxiliary verbs for the simple present tense. The structure of the questions varies slightly depending on the interrogative word used.The general structure to follow is always the following:Interrogative word + do/does + subject + base verb + rest of the sentence + ?Let's look at some examples to better understand how it works in these cases.When do you wake up in the morning? → When do you wake up in the morning?Where do Anna and John live? → Where do Anna and John live?Why do you like this movie? → Why do you like this movie?How do I get to the station? → How do I get to the station?Why does he always arrive late? → Why does he always arrive late?In case of a negative question, we will behave as follows:Why don't you like this movie?And in case of questions in the past , we simply conjugate the verbs do and does in the past tense, leaving the main verb in the present tense.Why did you like the station? → Why did you like this film? →When did you wake up this morning? → When did you wake up this morning?Please note : if "who" is the subject of the question, then it is not necessary to use the auxiliary verbs do and does.Who wants to come with me? → Chi vuole venire con me? (Here it's the subject, so no do)Who do you know here? → Chi conosci qui? (In this case it's not the subject, so the auxiliary is needed.) Both do and does are present tense forms of the verb do. Which is the correct form to use depends on the subject of your sentence. In this article, we'll explain the difference between do and does, cover when and how to use each form, and provide examples of how they're used in sentences. Do is an irregular verb, which means that it has different forms depending on tense and the subject it's being used with. Both do and does are used for the present tense. The form does is only used with third person singular subjects, such as the pronouns he, she, and it, as in She does yoga. The form do is used for all other subjects, including for first person (I and we) and second person pronouns (you) and the third person pronoun they (regardless of whether it's singular or plural), as in I do yoga, but they do not. The past tense form of do is did, and the past participle form is done. do vs. does The verb do is considered an irregular verb because its past tense and past participle are not formed by adding -ed or -d to the end of the base form as is the case in most verbs. In fact, do has a particularly unusual conjugation pattern compared to other verbs. Here are the different forms of do: do: Base/infinitive; used for present tense except with third person singular subjects (other than the singular they, which uses do regardless of whether it's singular or plural). Example: I do my homework as soon as I get home. does: Used for third person singular present tense (other than singular they). Example: She does her homework as soon as she gets home. did: past tense Example: She did her homework as soon as she got home. done: past participle Example: She had done homework for three hours after she got home. doing: present participle and gerund Example: She is doing her homework. The forms do, does, and did are also used in the negative contractions don't (do not), doesn't (does not), and didn't (did not). For example: Don't open the window. Luke doesn't know how to cook. Fortunately, the flowers didn't wither. Verbs similar to do The irregular verb do has a unique conjugation pattern. Some other irregular verbs that have an unusual conjugation pattern somewhat similar to do are go, be, and have. Base/Infinitive Present Tense Past Tense Past Participle Present Participle do do/does did done doing go go/goes went gone going be is/are was/were been being have has/have had had having To learn more about the forms of the verb be, check our guides to is vs. are, been vs. being, and has been vs. have been. Examples of do, does, did, and done used in a sentence The only thing left to do is look at how we typically use the forms do, did, and does in sentences. I've never done yoga, and I'm not sure if they do, but I'm sure that he does. I remember what I did last time, but I'm not sure if I should do it again. She did everything she could to make sure it was done by the deadline. I can't do even a fraction of the amazing things that my brother does on a regular basis. We did the vacuuming yesterday, the morning crew does the laundry on Fridays, and the night crew will do the floor waxing next month.

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