

I'm not a robot



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 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/does did done doing go/goes went gone going be/is/are was/were been being have/has 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. What's the difference between **do vs. does**? **Do** and **does** are two words that are often used interchangeably, but they have different meanings and uses. Understanding the difference between these two words is important in order to use them correctly in sentences. While both are forms of the verb "to do," they are used in different contexts and with different subjects. **Do vs. Does** What Are **Do** and **Does**? **Do** and **does** are auxiliary verbs in the English language. They are used to form questions, negatives, and some other types of sentences. **Do** is used with all subjects except for the third person singular (he, she, it). For the third person singular, **does** is used. How Are **Do** and **Does** Used? **Do** and **does** are used to form questions and negatives in the present tense. They are also used as main verbs to express actions. **DO** and **does** are often used with other verbs to form questions and negatives. For example: **Do you like pizza?** **Does she speak Spanish?** **DO** and **does** can also be used as main verbs to express actions. For example: **I do my homework every night. She does yoga every morning. Examples of Do and Does Usage** Here are some examples of **do** and **does** usage in various contexts: Questions: **Do you have a car?** **Does he play basketball?** Negatives: **I do not like coffee.** **She does not eat meat. Present tense: They do their homework every day. He does his laundry on Sundays. Third person singular: She does her hair in the morning. He does his work on time. Imperative sentences: Do your best! Does anyone have a question? Affirmative: I do like ice cream. He does play the guitar. To be: I do not know. She does not want to go. Auxiliary verbs: I do not want to go. She does not like pizza. Helping verbs: I do not have any money. He does not know the answer. Word order: **Do you like pizza?** **Does she speak French?** Short answers: **Do you like coffee?** **Yes, I do. Does he play soccer?** **No, he does not. Singular subjects: He does his homework every night. Plural subjects: They do their homework every night. Transitive verb: I do my homework every night. Demonstrative pronoun: This does not work. That does not make sense. Likes: She does not like to swim. He does like to read. Grammar rules: **Do** and **does** are used with different subjects. **Do** is used with all subjects except for the third person singular, which uses **does**. Differences between **Do vs. Does** When to Use **DO** "**Do**" is a verb that is used in a variety of contexts. Here are some of the most common ways to use "**do**": To perform an action or task: "I need to do my homework." To create emphasis: "I do like pizza." To form questions and negatives: "Do you want to go to the movies?" "I do not like broccoli." When to Use **DOES** "**Does**" is the third-person singular form of "**do**." It is used when referring to a single person or thing. Here are some examples of when to use "**does**": To describe an action or task performed by a single person or thing: "He does his homework every night." To form questions and negatives: "Does she want to go to the movies?" "He does not like broccoli." How to Form Questions with **DO** and **DOES** To form a question with "**do**" or "**does**," simply invert the subject and the verb. Here are some examples: "Do you like ice cream?" "Does she play tennis?" How to Form Negative Sentences with **DO** and **DOES** To form a negative sentence with "**do**" or "**does**," add "**not**" after the verb. Here are some examples: "I do not want to go to the party." "He does not like spicy food." **Do vs. Does**: Singular vs. Plural When it comes to using "**do**" and "**does**," it's important to understand when to use each one based on whether the subject is singular or plural. Here are some guidelines to keep in mind: Using **Do vs. Does** with Singular Subjects When the subject of a sentence is singular (such as "**he**," "**she**," or "**it**"), you should use "**do**" instead of "**does**." For example: **Do your best work in the morning. We do not always agree on everything. You do not have to come if you don't want to. It's important to note that there are some exceptions to these rules. For example, in imperative sentences (commands or requests), you should always use "do" regardless of whether the subject is singular or plural. For example: Do your homework before you go outside. Do not touch that hot stove!** **Do vs. Does**: Third Person Singular Using **Do vs. Does** with Third Person Singular Subjects When it comes to using "**do**" and "**does**" with third-person singular subjects, it's important to remember that "**do**" is used with all other pronouns, while "**does**" is used with the third-person singular pronoun. For example, "**I do my homework**," but "**He does his homework**." It's also important to note that "**does**" is the third person singular present tense version of "**do**." How to Form Questions with Third Person Singular Subjects When forming questions with third person singular subjects, it's important to remember to use "**does**" instead of "**do**." For example, "**Does he like pizza?**" instead of "**Do he like pizza?**" It's also important to note that the word order in questions with third-person singular subjects is the same as in questions with other pronouns. For example, "**Does he like pizza?**" has the same word order as "**Do they like pizza?**" How to Form Negative Sentences with Third Person Singular Subjects When forming negative sentences with third-person singular subjects, it's important to remember to add "**doesn't**" instead of "**don't**." For example, "**He doesn't like pizza**" instead of "**He don't like pizza**." It's also important to note that the word order in negative sentences with third-person singular subjects is the same as in negative sentences with other pronouns. For example, "**He doesn't like pizza**" has the same word order as "**They don't like pizza**." **Do vs. Does**: Commands and Imperative Sentences How to Use **Do vs Does** in Commands When it comes to giving commands or making requests, it is important to use the correct form of "**do**" or "**does**" depending on the subject of the sentence. The basic rule is to use "**do**" with all subjects except for the third-person singular, which requires "**does**." For example: **Do your homework. Do not forget to turn off the lights. Do you want to come with us?** In contrast, we use "**does**" with the third-person singular subject: **Does he like pizza?** **Does she have any siblings?** **Does it rain a lot in this city?** How to Use **Do vs. Does** in Imperative Sentences Imperative sentences are used to give commands or make requests. In these sentences, we always use "**do**" and never "**does**." For example: **Do your chores before you go outside. Do your best on the exam. It is important to note that "does" is never used to form imperative sentences. Do vs. Does: Auxiliary Verbs** Auxiliary verbs are verbs used in combination with other main verbs to add grammatical meaning to a sentence. **DO** is one such auxiliary verb that is used in English. How to Use **Do vs. Does** as Auxiliary Verbs **DO** is used to form questions and negatives in the present tense. For example, "**Do you like pizza?**" and "**I do not like broccoli.**" **DOES**, on the other hand, is used for the third person singular in the present tense. For example, "**She does not like mushrooms.**" **Do** and **does** can also be used with other auxiliary verbs to form different tenses, such as the present continuous and the past continuous. For example, "**I am doing my homework**" and "**She was doing her laundry.**" **Do** and **does** can also be used to form negatives and questions in the present perfect tense. For example, "**I have not done my homework yet**" and "**Have you done your laundry?**" In conclusion, **Do** and **does** are important auxiliary verbs in English that are used to form questions, negatives, and different tenses. By understanding how to use them correctly, you can improve your English language skills and communicate more effectively. **DO** **DOES** Used for questions and negatives in present tense Used for third person singular in present tense Used for questions and negatives in past tense Used with other auxiliary verbs to form different tenses Used to form negatives and questions in present perfect tense **Do** is an irregular verb **Does** is the third-person singular form of **do** **Do** takes the form **did** in the past tense **Do** and **does** are commonly used as auxiliary verbs to form different tenses and questions/negatives. **Do vs. Does**: Infinitives and Gerunds How to Use **Do vs. Does** with Infinitives When using infinitives with **do** and **does**, it is important to remember that **DO** is the base form of the verb, while **DOES** is the third-person singular form. Here are some examples: **I do my homework every day. She does her laundry on Sundays. In both of these sentences, do and does are followed by the infinitive form of the verb. This is because the infinitive is used to express an action that has not yet happened but will happen in the future. How to Use Do vs. Does with Gerunds** When using gerunds with **do** and **does**, it is important to remember that both **DO** and **DOES** are followed by the -ing form of the verb. Here are some examples: **I enjoy doing crossword puzzles. She hates doing the dishes. In both of these sentences, do and does are followed by the gerund form of the verb. This is because the gerund is used to express an action that is happening right now or has already happened in the past. It is also important to note that **do** and **does** can be used with both infinitives and gerunds to express different meanings. For example: **I do my best to help others. (infinitive) She does her own thing, no matter what others say. (gerund) In these sentences, do and does are used to express different meanings depending on whether they are followed by an infinitive or a gerund. Do vs. Does: Past Tense and Past Participle Using Do vs. Does in Past Tense** In the past tense, the verb "**do**" changes to "**did**" for all subjects. On the other hand, "**does**" remains unchanged in the third-person singular present tense. Here are some examples: **I did my homework yesterday. You did a great job on the presentation. He did not attend the meeting. She does not like spicy food. The team does well in this stadium. Using Do vs. Does in Past Participle** In the past participle, the verb "**do**" changes to "**done**." Here are some examples: **I have done my best to help you. You should have done your research before making a decision. He has not done anything productive all day. She does not have any work done yet. It is important to note that "does" does not have a past participle form. Therefore, it is not used in past participle constructions. Conclusion: In conclusion, the difference between "do" and "does" is simple. "Do" is used in all persons except for the third person singular, where "does" is used. It's important to use the correct form of the verb to ensure that your sentence is grammatically correct and easy to understand. Here are some key takeaways: Use "do" with all persons except for the third person singular. Use "does" with the third person singular. "Do" and "does" are present tense forms of the verb "to do". "Do" can also be used to form an imperative sentence. It's important to note that while the difference between "do" and "does" may seem small, it can greatly affect the meaning and clarity of your sentence. By using the correct form of the verb, you can ensure that your writing is clear and easy to understand. Remember to always double-check your work and make sure that you are using the correct form of the verb. With practice, using "do" and "does" correctly will become second nature. Do vs. Does | Picture When to Use Do vs. Does Pin Related links: Can vs. May Has vs. Have May vs. Might Was vs. Were 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 TenseIn the present tense, do takes the form do or does, depending on the subject:Subject:Verb:/you/we/theyDidHe/she/ItDoesConsider the following examples:- We do our homework every night. She does her homework every night.2. Past TenseIn the simple past tense, the base verb do takes the form did with all subjects:Subject:Verb:/you/we/theyDidHe/she/ItDidConsider 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 SentencesFollowing 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. QuestionsTo 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. EmphasisIn 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 ServicesHopefully, 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 have not been reviewed. He's always had support of his parents with understanding what athletics does for younger generation and to be productive on a daily basis." Tim Garcia said."How many Boeing airplanes does Cambodia or Sri Lanka need and can afford to purchase each year?" he asked.She does not know how she will support her young daughter as she grows up.The criminal complaint makes no reference to a punch and video taken at the scene does not clearly show Martinez strike anyone."Clearly being in a custody environment does not help, which is why we work with partners to try and find them support and safe accommodation elsewhere."doer and gonedeoeskinBrowse#abbccddeeffgghhijjklmmnooppqrrssttuuvvwwxxyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC English grammar can be tricky, especially when it comes to choosing between **do** and **does**. These two little words play a big role in how we ask questions and make statements, yet they often lead to confusion among English learners. If you've ever stopped mid-sentence, unsure of which one fits your query or statement, you're not alone. The good news is that there's a straightforward way to understand how and when to use these verbs correctly. It's not about memorizing complex rules but grasping a simple concept that will clear up the confusion once and for all. So, if you're looking to polish your English skills and say goodbye to those awkward pauses, you're on the right track. But wait—there's a twist in the tale that even native speakers sometimes miss. Stay tuned as we unravel this key piece of the puzzle... Understanding when to use "**do**" and "**does**" is key for speaking and writing English correctly. Use "**do**" with the pronouns **I, you, we,** and **they**. For example, "**I do like pizza**" or "**They do not want to go.**" On the other hand, use "**does**" with the third person singular pronouns **he, she,** and **it**. So, you would say "**She does play the piano**" or "**It does not matter.**" Remember, in questions, these words shift to the start: "**Do you want tea?**" or "**Does he know her?**" Getting this right will make your English sound more natural. The Role of "**Do**" and "**Does**" in English Grammar In English grammar, understanding the role of '**Do**' and '**Does**' as auxiliary verbs can greatly improve one's writing and communication skills. By examining the basic principles of sentence structure, familiarizing oneself with the distinction between these auxiliaries, and recognizing their impact on clarity and meaning, a strong foundation can be built to achieve grammatical accuracy. Understanding Basic Sentence Structure To construct sentences using '**Do**' and '**Does**', a solid comprehension of the basic English sentence structure is essential. The primary role of these auxiliary verbs is to assist in forming questions and negative sentences. As a rule, '**Do**' is used with plural pronouns (e.g., '**I**', '**you**', '**we**', and '**they**') as well as first person singular pronoun '**I**', while '**Does**' is used exclusively with third person singular subjects (e.g., '**he**', '**she**', '**it**', and singular nouns). "**Do you like apples?**" "**She does not have a dog.**" Distinguishing Between '**Do**' and '**Does**' as Auxiliaries As auxiliaries, '**Do**' and '**Does**' determine the tense and agreement with the subject in a sentence. In particular, '**Do**' pairs with plural pronouns and '**I**' while '**Does**' is used with third person singular pronouns. When answering questions affirmatively without repeating the main verb, you can use '**Do**': **Q: Do you enjoy reading books?** **A: Yes, I do.** In summary, recognizing the various situations for '**Do**' and '**Does**' is vital. While both play an essential part in the English grammar question structure, the usage of each varies depending on the subject pronoun involved. '**Do**' is typically used in questions that involve the first and second person pronouns ('**I**', '**you**', and '**we**') as well as the third person plural pronoun ('**they**'). In contrast, '**Does**' is reserved for use with third person singular pronouns ('**he**', '**she**', and '**it**'), as well as singular nouns. This section will provide a comprehensive guide on using '**does**' in different sentence structures, common errors to avoid, and special grammar cases. 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A common error involves using '**does**' with incorrect pronouns, leading to grammar inconsistency and potential confusion. Furthermore, some may misunderstand the use of '**does**' in negative statements and questions. To avoid these mistakes, always ensure that '**does**' is used with third person singular subjects and follows proper grammar rules. Related: Are vs Were: Mastering American English Grammar with Ease Incorrect Correct Does they play soccer? Do they play soccer? Tom doesn't know the answer. Tom doesn't know the answer. She doesn't like pizza. She doesn't like pizza. By being mindful of these special cases and common mistakes, you'll be well on your way to mastering the proper usage of the auxiliary verb '**does**' in sentences. Making Questions with '**Do**' and '**Does**' As you begin to construct English questions in the present tense, understanding the roles of '**Do**' and '**Does**' as auxiliary verbs is vital. 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