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Does and does are two words that are spelled identically but are pronounced differently and have different meanings, which makes them heteronyms. We will examine the definitions of the words does and does, where these words came from, and a few examples of their use in sentences. Does (duz) is the third-person singular form of the verb do and means to perform an action, to make something happen, to bring about a conclusion. Does is derived from the words doth and doeth. Does (doze) is the plural form of the word doe, which is an adult female deer, rabbit, kangaroo, etc. The word doe is derived from the Old English word *do*. Examples: Robert Gehrke: What does 2020 hold for Trump, McAdams and Utah's next governor? Join me as I peer into the mists. (The Salt Lake Tribune) U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he does not want, or foresee, war with Iran, after he earlier threatened to retaliate against the country following violent protests led by Iranian-backed militias at the U.S. embassy in Baghdad. (Reuters) While does and bucks still breed in mid-November as they always have, they tend to move less in daylight and more during cooler nights. (Outdoor Life Magazine) But all the while, the does kept a steady course feeding toward me—and finally, he came chasing one of them just into range, stopped for a second, and I got him.” (Field & Stream Magazine) 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 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/they Do/He/she/it/Does 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/they Did/He/she/it/Did 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 learning 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! 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, these words shift to 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. These helping verbs allow for the indication of actions or states of being without the repetition of the main verb. Example: Do: “We do need help.” Does: “He does understand the situation.” The Impact of Verb Forms on Clarity and Meaning Using ‘Do’ and ‘Does’ appropriately is crucial for maintaining clarity and preserving the intended meaning of sentences, especially when specifying present tense actions. Incorrect usage can result in ambiguity or misunderstandings regarding the timing of an action or statement. Related: Is It Correct to Say “I Understand Your Situation”? Correct/Incorrect They do like to travel. They does like to travel. She does play the piano. She do play the piano. By mastering the use of English auxiliary verbs like ‘Do’ and ‘Does’, you can enhance your sentence construction skills and improve the overall quality of your written and spoken communication. When to Use ‘Do’ Understanding when to use the verb ‘Do’ is essential for creating clear and grammatically correct sentences. This versatile verb plays a crucial role in various sentence structures and functions, including expressing affirmative actions, forming imperative commands, and answering questions without repetition. In this section, we’ll explore the situations where using ‘Do’ is recommended and provide guidance on how to apply ‘Do’ effectively in your everyday communication. Using ‘Do’ with pronouns like ‘I’, ‘you’, ‘we’, and ‘they’, as well as names and plural nouns, is common in English grammar. This usage is especially prevalent when discussing repeated or habitual actions, such as: I do exercise every day. You do clean your room every week. We do study hard for our exams. Beyond conveying affirmative actions, ‘Do’ also has a role in imperative sentences. In these instances, ‘Do’ is used to help form commands, requests, or suggestions: Do try some of this delicious cake. Please do be quiet during the movie. Do join us for dinner tomorrow night. However, it’s important to note that ‘Do’ should not be used with modal verbs (such as ‘can’, ‘will’, ‘should’) or the verb ‘To Be’ (am, is, are). “Do” is a handy and versatile verb, but it has its limits—avoid using it with modal verbs and the verb ‘To Be’. When forming sentences, ‘Do’ can also be utilized for emphasizing actions and making a statement more assertive. For example: I do like this song. They do work hard to support their families. Lastly, 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 following this verb ‘Do’ usage guide will help you convey your thoughts and ideas effectively in everyday communication. Keep practicing the proper use of ‘Do’, and you’ll see improvements in your English grammar skills. Proper Usage of ‘Does’ in Sentences Understanding the correct application of ‘does’ in sentences is crucial for accurate communication when using third person singular subjects. This section will provide a comprehensive guide on using ‘does’ in different sentence structures, common errors to avoid, and special grammar cases. ‘Does’ with Third Person Singular Subjects ‘Does’ is exclusively used with third person singular subjects like ‘he’, ‘she’, ‘it’, as well as singular nouns. It operates as the singular form of ‘do’ for present tense actions. When constructing questions and asserting statements involving these pronouns, ‘does’ plays a vital role in ensuring proper agreement and correct grammar usage. The employee does her job well. Does it rain here often? Does John work at this office? It’s crucial to remember that when using ‘Do’ and ‘Does’ in questions, the base form of the main verb remains unchanged. Additionally, modal verbs (can, could, may, might, etc.) and the verb ‘To Be’ replace ‘Do’ and ‘Does’ in forming questions, causing these auxiliaries to be omitted. For example: Is she your teacher? (not ‘Does she be your teacher?’) Can you swim? (not ‘Do you can swim?’) Mastering the art of forming questions with ‘Do’ and ‘Does’ is an essential skill for English language learners. As you practice and become more familiar with these auxiliary verbs, your ability to communicate and ask questions effectively in English will undoubtedly improve. ‘Do’ and ‘Does’ in Negative Sentences Negative sentence crafting in English often involves the use of ‘Do’ and ‘Does’ to express denial or refusal. In this section, we will explore the construction of negative sentences using these auxiliary verbs, along with English negation rules, negative contractions and short forms in negation like ‘Don’t’ and ‘Doesn’t’. Forming Negatives with Contractions Negative contractions occur when combining ‘do’ or ‘does’ with ‘not’ to create a shortened form. In doing so, ‘don’t’ (do not) and ‘doesn’t’ (does not) are formed. These contractions facilitate more casual and expedient communication while adhering to correct grammar and subject-verb agreement rules. ‘Do’ + ‘not’ = ‘Don’t’ ‘Does’ + ‘not’ = ‘Doesn’t’ He doesn’t like to dance. They don’t want to go to the party. Emphasizing Statements with ‘Do’ and ‘Does’ ‘Do’ and ‘Does’ can also emphasize the validity and assertion of statements. This is particularly useful in responses to doubts or when one needs to affirm an expression emphatically. Utilizing these auxiliaries can strengthen expressions and convey certainty. I do want to go! She does know the answer. Common Pitfalls to Avoid in Negation Misusing ‘Do’ and ‘Does’ in negative sentences can result in errors. To maintain accuracy when communicating by denial, be mindful of the following: Using ‘do’ and ‘does’ with incorrect pronouns Not altering verb form correctly in negations, such as using ‘to’ with ‘does not’ (incorrect: She does not likes) Overlooking contraction rules with these auxiliaries By developing a strong understanding of negation with ‘Do’ and ‘Does’, you will be well-equipped to craft accurate negative sentences and improve overall English communication skills. Practical Exercises and Tips for Mastering ‘Do’ and ‘Does’ Achieving mastery in the usage of ‘do’ and ‘does’ in English grammar involves consistent practice and a keen focus on different contexts in which these auxiliary verbs can be applied. Engage in exercises for ‘do’ and ‘does’ that encourage active learning and help fine-tune your skills. Some exercises you can attempt include filling in missing words, converting affirmative statements into questions or negatives, and constructing sentences that emphasize your intent. For better grammar practice activities, explore worksheets, quizzes, and interactive games that provide ample opportunities to practice using ‘do’ and ‘does’. These resources often challenge your understanding of key concepts while enhancing your language proficiency. Remember, practice makes perfect! Apart from theoretical knowledge, incorporating ‘do’ and ‘does’ into regular conversation goes a long way in securing mastery of these verbs. Pay attention to the nuances of how native speakers employ ‘do’ and ‘does’ in various situations and follow their lead. Follow these tips for mastering ‘do’ and ‘does’, and you will soon become more confident and accurate in your English grammar skills. Nearby words doek noun doer noun does verb doesn't short form of adjective careful adjective From the Word list Oxford 3000 A2 Oxford Learner's Dictionaries Word of the Day 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. 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/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. 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. This is such an important moment to speak out and to ensure that the Latino community does not feel alone,” Raman said.Sir David was also critical of the industrial policies of both the Scottish and UK governments saying: “It’s ridiculous that Britain does not have the capacity to make a steel plate for its defence.”But Senate Republican Leader John Thune, of South Dakota, does not seem to agree with calls to oust her.However, he has also said that the PKK’s disarmament does not apply to the SDF, which signed a separate deal to merge with the Syrian armed forces in December.John Winnik does not know when he will get treatment for a problem with his back.doer and goneoeskinBrowse#aabcccddeeffghhijklmmnooppqrrsstuuwwwxyzzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day! © 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC 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 do and does 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 instead. 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/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 forms 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 “does” instead of “do.” For example: He does his homework every night. She does not like to eat broccoli. It does not like to eat broccoli. It is also important to note that “does” is the third person singular present tense version of “do.” Using Do vs. Does with Plural Subjects When the subject of a sentence is plural (such as “they” or “we”), you should use “do” instead of “does.” For example: They do their 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 not talk to strangers. 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 to form questions and negatives in the past tense, but in this case, the base verb DO takes the form DID. For example, “Did you go to the party?” and “I did not see the movie.” Using DO vs. Does with Other Auxiliary Verbs 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 Both ‘do’ and ‘does’ are conjugations of the verb, ‘to do.’ ‘To do’ infers that a task or an action is accomplished or needs to be accomplished. The main difference between ‘do’ and ‘does’ is when and in the manner they are used. ‘Do’ is used in the first and second person singular and plural and the third person plural. ‘Does’ is used in the third person singular. Consider the following examples: I do the work daily. You do the work daily. He does the work daily. She does the work daily. It does the work daily. They do the work daily. In order to consider when to use ‘do’ or ‘does’, one must understand when to use the verb ‘to do.’ According to Dictionary.com, ‘do’ is commonly used: To perform (an act, duty, role, etc.). Do nothing until you hear the bell. To execute (a piece or amount of work): to do a hauling job. To accomplish; finish; complete: He has already done his homework. To put forth; exert: Do your best. To be the cause of (good, harm, credit, etc.): bring about; effect: You do credit to your family name. To render, give, or pay (homage, justice, etc.). You must do justice to the idea. To deal with, fix, clean, arrange, move, etc., (anything) as the case may require: to do the dishes. To serve; suffice for: This will do us for the present. Do you go or prepare: I’ll do the salad. Etc. While, ‘does’ is listed as: a 3rd person singular present indicative of do.” Essentially, does is used in all the places that ‘do’ is, however in a different verb form. E.g. I do the dishes. She does the dishes. Consider further examples listed below as reference. Further examples of ‘do’: I do not go there often. Do you go there often? All you ever do is surf the Internet. What will you do this afternoon? It’s not the best broom, but it will have to do. How do you do? What does Bob do for a living? I’m going to have to do this in the play. Do you speak Spanish? Do we have time for a quick drink? Do they want to come with me? I do get up early in the morning. We do prepare different kinds of food. Further examples of ‘does’: I play tennis; he does too. It does look good, doesn’t it? Does he speak Spanish? Does John speak French? Does it rain a lot in the South? Does she like chocolate? Does that car cost a lot of money? She does the cooking nicely. Mary does get up early in the morning. Jack does prepare different kinds of food.