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verb jump to other results do1 Nearby words doek noun doer noun does verb doesn't short form dof adjective careful adjective From the Word list Oxford 3000 A2 Oxford Learner's Dictionaries Word of the Day What is the difference between 'Do' and 'Does'? It can be confusing to decide which form of the word to use in English. Many people, even native speakers, often mix up these words and use them incorrectly. The words are related to each other, and in fact, 'does' is really a form of the verb infinitive 'to do'. The key to using 'do' and 'does' correctly is to understand whether the noun in the subject of a sentence is singular or plural. The subject is the part of a sentence that is about what is being said. In the example, 'The big dog does sleep,' 'The big dog' is the subject or what the sentence is about. In this case, 'The big dog' is singular because 'dog' is a singular noun. It is also necessary to decide what person the subject is in when there is a pronoun being used. First person singular is 'I' and plural is 'We'. Second person singular and plural is 'you'. Finally, third person singular is 'he', 'she' or 'it', and plural is 'they'. 'To do' means to make something happen, to perform something, to bring something about or to act or work in a certain way. 'Do' is used with all plural nouns, in the first person singular, second person singular and plural and third person plural. For example: People do work on a jobsite. It is used with the pronouns 'I', 'You', 'We' and 'They'. For example: I do things with my friends, and you do things with your friends. To make the statement negative, 'not' would be added after 'do'. I do not do things with my friends. Since 'does' is a form of the word 'Do', it is used to mean the same exact thing. However, it is used with singular nouns in the present tense (third person singular). For example: The man does work here. It is only used with the pronouns 'He', 'She' and 'It'. She does what she wants. It is made negative in the same way as 'do', adding not after 'does'. It does not belong to him. 'Do' and 'Does' are also used to make a simple present tense statement a question. By putting these words in front of a statement a question is now formed. For example: You work. Do you work? When 'Does' with the third person (He, She or It), however, the 's' at the end of the verb infinitive is removed. For example: He works. Does he work? Question words, such as 'Who', 'What', 'Where', 'When' or 'How' can also be added for additional information. For example: Where does he work? In this case too, whether to use 'does' or 'do' depends on whether the noun subject is plural or not. Learning the proper usage of 'do' and 'does' is quite simple, but only once you understand the underlying grammar. So when in doubt of which word to use, simply go back to the basics and check to see whether the noun is singular or plural, and if a pronoun is being used, what person it is in. Facebook Email Twitter Print Email This Post If you like this article or our site, please spread the word. Share it with your friends/family, 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 gonedeoskinBrowse#aabcccddeeffghhijklmnnoppqrrsstuuvvwxxyzzAboutCareersContact 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 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 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 "does" instead of "do." For example: He does his homework every night. She does not like to eat broccoli. It does not rain very often in this part of the country. 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 use "does not" instead of "do not." For example, "He does not 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 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 Notebook With Do vs. Does Definitions Notebook: redchocolate / iStock / Getty Images Plus Used under Getty Images license "Do" and "does" sentence examples are a great way to begin learning about the verb "to do." Some forms of "do," including "does," are examples of helping verbs in English. These kinds of verbs extend the meaning of the main verb in a sentence. Before you compare "do" and "does," it helps to understand verb tenses. The main definition of "do" is "to accomplish an action." The main definition of "does" is "a reference to the accomplishment of another." Both words mean basically the same thing, because "does" is the third person singular present tense version of "do." The difference is in how each word gets used. Since "does" is really just a form of "do," both words have a lot in common. Both are verbs, or action words. What do you do on days off? How does that clock work? Both are present tense. I do love this game. She does want to come over now. Both have the same general definition. I do my hair before school. She does her hair before school. Both are put in the same place in sentences and questions. Do you like chicken nuggets? Does your mom like chicken nuggets? Both can replace a main verb when the meaning is obvious. How do you do that? How does he do that? The dictionary definition of "do" actually includes several definitions, like "to perform," "to bring about," and "to solve," while "does" only has one definition. The use of "do" and "does" is the key difference between the two words. 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