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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: 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. Nearby words dook noun doer noun verb doesn't short form of do adjective Do you know the difference between 'do' or 'does' and when to use each one? If you don't, not to worry; that's what this article is here to help you with. In short, 'do' and 'does' are both present tenses of the verb 'to do'. 'Does' is used with third-person singular pronouns. 'Do' is used with all the other pronouns. Comparing 'Do' or 'Does' 'Do' and 'does' are both forms of the present indefinite tense of the verb 'to do'. Which one you'll use will mostly depend on the sentence's subject. Their usage is almost identical, except for one instance where you can use 'do' and not 'does'. I'll cover all of them in this article. How to Use 'Do' or 'Does' The verb 'do' can be either a main or helping verb. 'Do' and 'Does' as Main Verbs As a main verb, it denotes action. 'To do' something is "to perform, take part in, or achieve something." Here's how the verb is conjugated in the present tense: I do You do She/he/it does We do They do You do As you can see, we use 'does' with the third-person singular pronouns and 'do' with all the others. What does that look like in practice? Here are a couple of examples of 'do' and 'does' used as main verbs: What shall we do now? I don't know what she does all day. 'Do' and 'Does' as Helping Verbs 'Do' and 'does' can also be used as helping verbs to form questions. The same pronoun rules apply here. For example: Do you like karaoke? Does he cycle to work? In both cases, 'do' isn't the main verb; instead, it helps the main verb: 'like' in the first sentence and 'cycle' in the second one. Top Tip! The only verb 'do' can't help is the verb 'to be'. You couldn't say, for example, "Do you be happy?". Using 'Do' and 'Does' To Avoid Repetition You can also use 'do' and 'does' to avoid repeating the main verb when it's already been stated. This comes in handy when answering a question. For example, if someone asks us if we like tomatoes, instead of saying, "Yes, I like tomatoes," we can say, "Yes, I do." Do you like tomatoes? Yes, I do. Does she like tomatoes? Yes, she does. It doesn't have to be an answer to a question, though. It can also be used as a substitute verb in almost any sentence to avoid repetition or when the main verb is obvious. For example: He types much faster than she does. Instead of repeating the verb 'type,' we use 'does' as a replacement. Here's another example: I don't play with my dog in the house; I do it in the garden. 'Do' replaces the main verb 'play.' Using 'Do' and 'Does' for Emphasis Sometimes you can use 'do' or 'does' to emphasize what you're about to say. So, for example, if you want to say that you like a T-shirt, you can accentuate the verb 'like' with 'do'. I do like that T-shirt. Or with 'does,' if the pronoun is third person singular: She does like that T-shirt. Using 'Do' for Imperative Sentences Remember when I said earlier that there was one instance where you could use 'do' but not 'does'? Yep, so that's what I'll explain now. You can use 'do' with the imperative mood. You use this mood to give someone an order or make a request. Do the dishes, please. Do stop by on your way home. Do not tease your brother. Using "Do" or "Does" in Negative Form I wanted to mention a quick word about using 'do' and 'does' in the negative form. If you're forming a negative sentence, you can still use 'do' and 'does' in the same ways as described above, except you'll use the negative form of the verbs: Do – do not / don't Does – does not / doesn't Pronunciation: How to Pronounce "Do" or "Does" Now that we've covered all the different usages of the 'do' and 'does,' would you like to know how to pronounce them? Do rhymes with 'blue,' 'moo,' and 'shoe.' It sounds like this: [doo] [As for 'does,' it rhymes with 'buzz' and 'because' and sounds like this: [duhz] In case you're curious, here are the International Phonetics Alphabet spellings: / dʊ / doʊz / Examples of 'Do' and 'Does' I know we've looked at plenty of examples, but I will list a few more here for each word because I believe repetition and practice are the best ways to improve our English skills. Therefore, the more examples you see, the better you'll understand how to use the words. Let's start with 'do.' How to Use 'Do' in a Sentence I do like the color blue. They've broken up again; they do this annually. Do you want your apple pie? How to Use 'Does' in a Sentence I love the way she does her makeup. My dog always does a little excited bark when I tell him we're going out. Yes, he does believe in Santa Claus. Concluding Thoughts That concludes this article on the difference between 'do' and 'does' and how to use them correctly. Let's summarize what we've learned: 'Do' and 'does' are present tense forms of the verb 'to be' Use 'do' with the third-person singular pronoun Use 'do' with all the other pronouns You can also use 'do' to form an imperative sentence with any pronoun If you found this article helpful, you might like the others in our Confusing Words blog archive. Check it out! 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 like to swim. She does not 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 (he, she, it), 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 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. 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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. 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