

The “Do” Verb

Do is an irregular verb. **Do** may be used as a *main* verb or as a *helping* verb. Whenever a single word form of “do” is used, or if “do” is the *last* word in a phrasal verb then it is the principal verb in the sentence.

- Main verb example: I **do** the dishes. I **can do** the dishes. *Do* is the main verb in the phrasal verb *can do*.

When any form of “do” is the *first* word in a phrasal verb, then “do” is the helping verb.

- Helping verb example: I **do think** that my daughter should wash the dishes. *Do* is the helping verb; *think* is the main verb.

	Present	Past	Future
	Action happening now	Action is completed	Action to come
Person & Number	do	did	will do
1st Person Singular	I do the dishes.	I did the dishes.	I will do the dishes.
2nd Person Singular	You do	You did	You will do
3rd Person Singular	He/she/it does third person singular rule – add “es”	He/she/it did	He/she/it will do
1st Person Plural	We do	We did	We will do
2nd Person Plural	You do	You did	You will do
3rd Person Plural	They do	They did	They will do

	Present Perfect	Past Perfect	Future Perfect
	← Action began in the past & continues → into present	One action completed • before another one took place ←	Action will be complete • before a specific time →
Person & Number	have/has + done	had + done	will + have + done
1st Person Singular	I have done the dishes many times.	I had done the dishes before I watched TV.	I will have done the dishes by the time you arrive.
2nd Person Singular	You have done	You had done	You will have done
3rd Person Singular	He/she/it has done third person singular rule – use the “s” form of the helping “have” verb	He/she/it had done	He/she/it will have done
1st Person Plural	We have done	We had done	We will have done
2nd Person Plural	You have done	You had done	You will have done
3rd Person Plural	They have done	They had done	They will have done

	Present Continuous	Past Continuous	Future Continuous
Person & Number	Present “be” verb + doing	Past “be” verb + doing	Will + be + doing
1 st Person Singular	I am doing the dishes.	I was doing the dishes.	I will be doing the dishes.
2 nd Person Singular	You are doing	You were doing	You will be doing
3 rd Person Singular	He/she/it is doing third person singular rule –use the “s” form of the “be” verb	He/she/it was doing	He/she/it will be doing
1 st Person Plural	We are doing	We were doing	We will be doing
2 nd Person Plural	You are doing	You were doing	You will be doing
3 rd Person Plural	They are doing	They were doing	They will be doing

To form questions with “do”

Do you like to wash dishes?

- ◆ Yes, I do. / No, I don't.

Does she like to wash dishes?

- ◆ Yes, she does. /No, she doesn't.

Do they like to help with cleaning up?

- ◆ Yes, they do. /No, they don't.

Use “do” for emphasis

Do you like to write poems?

- ◆ I do! Writing poetry is my favorite hobby.

Does John want to go fishing on his day off?

- ◆ He does! He really looks forward to the peace and quiet.

People who smoke cigarettes do have increased health risks.

Some idioms that include “do”

Do over – repeat; redecorate

Do up – dress up in fine clothes; fix hair and makeup stylishly

Do without – to not have something

Do away with – eliminate

Do a double take – take a second look

Do a one – eighty – to make a change; one hundred and eighty degree turn; opposite

Does a heart good – satisfying feeling

Do you read me – do you understand; do you hear me

Easy does it – stay calm, take your time

That does it – something is finished; might imply angry frustration

How does that grab you? – What do you think?

Do your thing – be yourself; be active in the activities that are of interest to you