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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **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 |

**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