

LESSON 6

Some helping verbs

Do, Does, Don't, Doesn't

'Do/Does' can be used as action verbs and also as helping verbs. As helping verbs they play an important role in the English language. Used with the main verb they help to form negatives and interrogatives in the simple present tense. They can also be added to the main verb to emphasize an idea. It is important to remember that 'does' is used with the third person singular.

I We You They	do
He She It	does

Look at the sets of sentences given below:

1. Do your work in time.
2. He does gardening in the afternoon.
3. I do my washing in the morning.
4. She does all the cleaning herself.

In the set of sentences given above 'do/does' has been used in the sense of performing a task.

1. I get up early in the morning.
I *do* get up early in the morning.
2. She helps her mother everyday.
She *does* help her mother everyday.
3. He works hard.
He *does* work hard.
4. They come every day.
They *do* come every day.

In the above set 'do/does' has been used to emphasize an action that is, 'getting up' or 'helping'.

1. I do not (don't) play football.







2. Amit does not (doesn't) work hard
3. We do not (don't) miss classes.
4. She does not (doesn't) like cooking.

In the above set 'do/does' has been used to form negative sentences.

1. Does the train leave at 2.00?
2. Do elephants live in forests?
3. Do we work hard?
4. Does it rain in winter?

In the above set 'do/does' has been used to make interrogatives.

Using 'do/does' for forming questions

Do I speak fast?	
Do you like litchis?	
Do we like bananas?	
Do birds live in nests?	
Does she like grapes?	
Does the koel sing?	

Does your son like games?



Using 'do/does' for forming negatives

My brother works hard.
My brother doesn't work hard.



I like sunsets.
I don't like sunsets.



Students go cycling.
Students don't go cycling.








He teaches.
He doesn't teach.



I like almonds.
I don't like almonds.



<p>Sita plays chess. Sita doesn't play chess.</p>	
<p>We see tigers everyday. We don't see tigers everyday.</p>	
<p>Nina bathes the baby everyday Nina doesn't bathe the baby everyday.</p>	
<p>We love children. We don't love children.</p>	
<p>We eat peaches. We don't eat peaches.</p>	

Exercise 1

Choose the appropriate verb:

1. _____ (Do/Does) you speak English?
2. _____ (Do/Does) he always behave like this?
3. _____ (Do/Does) they know that you're my sister?

4. _____ (Do/Does) your cats play with you?
5. You _____ (Do/Does) understand, don't you?
6. Why _____ (Do/Does) he always wear the same shirt?

Answers to Exercise 1

1. do 2. does 3. do 4. do 5. do. 6. does

Exercise 2

Form questions using 'do' and 'does'.

1. She eats ice cream.

2. The boys dance well.

3. He jumps over the wall.

4. You cycle to school.

Answers to Exercise 2

1. Does she eat ice cream?
2. Do the boys dance well?
3. Does he jump over the wall?
4. Do you cycle to school?

Assignment

Ask your friend about her likes and dislikes. Begin your questions with do/does.

1. _____ chocolate?
2. _____ chips?
3. _____ swimming?
4. _____ summer?
5. _____ cycling?
6. _____ books?

Modals, Tag Questions and Short answers

Some helping verbs perform special functions. Used in combination with other verbs they express certain concepts such as permission, possibility, certainty and necessity. Such verbs are called modal auxiliaries. They are: may, might, can, could, shall, should, must, need, ought to, used to, will and would.

Read this passage:

Our eyes are valuable to us, both for work and for play. We *should* take good care of them. We *should not* use our eyes foolishly because we *may* damage them so severely that they *may not* recover. For this reason we *would* like you to observe a few rules specially when reading, writing or doing other close work such as stitching or making models.

There *should* be enough light. It *must* be sufficiently strong and *should not* be concentrated in one place but evenly spread. While working you *should* be careful that the hand which holds the pen does not cast a shadow on the paper. Very strong light *may* be avoided since it tires the eyes, and the reflection from the paper *can* be harmful.

Now read these sentences:

1. There *must* be enough light.
2. We *should* take care of our eyes.
3. Damaged eyes *may* never recover.
4. Reflection *can* be harmful for eyes.

The verb 'must' has been used to show importance or necessity while the verb 'should' expresses the concept of obligation. 'may' conveys the idea of possibility while 'can' shows ability or possibility.

Study this list of important modal auxiliaries and the concepts they express with examples:

Modal auxiliary	Concepts expressed	Examples
1. may, might	Hope	He may come tomorrow
	Possibility	It might rain today.
	Request	May I come in?
	Asking for permission	May I use your bike?
	Giving permission Prayer	You may go now. May God bless you!
2. will	The simple future	The flag will be unfurled on 15th August.
	Future coloured with the idea of firm determination or certainty	You will listen to me. I will not go with you.
	Polite requests	Will you shut the window, please.
3. must	Necessity	We must take good care of our health.
	Prohibition	Cars must not be parked here.
4. Should	Obligation	We should obey our parents.
5. can	Ability/capability	I can solve this problem.
		He can lift this box.
6. could	Request	Could I use this telephone please?
	A past ability	I could run very fast when I was young.
7. ought to	Obligation	We ought to pay taxes regularly?
8. should	Necessity	We should obey our teachers.
	Possibility	If it should rain, they will not come.
9. need, need not	Obligation or absence of Obligation	You need to get your eyes checked. You need not come this weekend.
10. used to	Past habit	We used to wake up early.
		I used to smoke but now I don't.
11. would	Past habit	She would sit for hours in the garden.
	Polite request	Would you like to come in for a cup of tea.

Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate modals.

Salesman: _____ (1) I help you?

Customer: Yes, _____ (2) you show me some trousers please.

Salesman: All right sir, I _____ (3) show you different styles. Here is one without a crease and here is the same in a new style.

Customer: Oh! That ____ (4) be the one that was advertised in the paper. _____ (5)

you tell me the price?

Salesman: Only ₹ 300 sir.

Customer: Alright. I _____ (6) take both styles.

Salesman: _____ (7) I show you anything else? Say shirts or ties?

Customer: Not now. I _____ (8) look at any today. I _____ (9) come sometime next week. Thank you.

Customer: Thank you, sir.

Answers

1. May
2. could
3. can
4. must
5. can
6. will
7. Can
8. Can't
9. will

Exercise 2

Use must/must not, to complete the following sentences.

1. You _____ exercise regularly.
2. You _____ be lazy.
3. You _____ do your work yourself.
4. You _____ depend on others.
5. You _____ look down upon the ignorant.
6. You _____ respect the learned.

Answers

1. must
2. must not
3. must

4. must not
5. must not
6. must

Assignment

Imagine you are a drama critic. You are writing the review of a drama that you saw. The following things are wrong with it. Suggest improvements using 'could', 'might', and 'should'.

1. The setting was inappropriate and ineffective.
2. There was no use of sound and light effects.
3. The heroine was dull and wooden.
4. The play was boring and the plot drags.
5. The dialogues were rather artificial.
6. The main character did not contribute enough to the action of the story.
7. The story was unimaginative.

Tag Questions

Tag questions are questions attached to the end of a statement in order to draw attention to it or to give it added force. They may also be used to seek confirmation. They may ask for the opinion of the person to whom they are addressed, or they may take his agreement for granted. They are used only in conversation and in letters between friends where the writer adopts the same kind of style that he would use if he were actually speaking to his correspondent. The chief points to note are as follows:

1. A positive statement is followed by a negative question tag and a negative statement takes a positive question tag.
2. The subject of the question tag is always a pronoun.
3. It must be preceded by a helping verb.
4. The negative must have a short form.
 - a. It is a warm day, isn't it?
 - b. She can't swim, can she?
 - c. They have gone, haven't they?
 - d. She doesn't work hard, does she?
1. A negative statement does not necessarily mean one with a negative verb. So long as there is a negative idea in it, it is a negative statement, and needs a positive tag.
 - a. None of the men were present, were they?
 - b. We saw no-one we knew, did we?
 - c. A small scratch like that is nothing, is it?
2. Semi-negative words such as little, few, hardly, scarcely, rarely, seldom are treated as negatives, and take a positive tag.

- a. Few people knew the answer, did they?
- b. Little progress has been made, has it?
- c. We could scarcely hear what he said, could we?
- d. We seldom see them nowadays, do we?

Note: Though 'few' and 'little' are negative, 'a few' and 'a little' are positive, and therefore need a negative tag.

- a. A few people knew the answer, didn't they?
- b. A little progress has been made, hasn't it?

- 3. The adverb 'only' may take either a positive or a negative tag.

- a. He made only twenty runs, did he?
- b. He made only twenty runs, didn't he?

Note: The positive is more usual.

- 4. If a personal pronoun is the subject of the statement, then this same personal pronoun is repeated as the subject of the tag:

- a. He is very clever, isn't he?
- b. That girl isn't very attractive, is she?
- c. One can't be too careful, can one?

- 5. If the subject of the sentence is 'there' then it is repeated in the tag:

- a. There were three rooms in the house, weren't there?
- b. There weren't enough people in the audience, were there?

- 6. 'Used to' takes didn't in the tag.

She used to be quite a good tennis player, didn't she?

- 7. (i) Imperative verbs are a class apart. If they are simple requests, they usually take 'will you'? It does not matter if the verb is a positive or negative request.

- a. Pass me the newspaper, will you?
- b. Don't be late for dinner, will you?

(ii) If they are invitations or suggestions, they may also take 'will you' in the tag. But 'won't you' is used to add a note of urgency.

- a. You won't be late, will you?
- b. You will be on time, won't you?

(iii) Since 'won't you' suggests urgency, it is used with requests that have the force of a plea or a warning.

- a. Be careful when you cross the road, won't you?
- b. Remember to lock the door, won't you?

(iv) A suggestion that uses let's (short form for 'let us') takes 'shall we?' in the tag.

- a. Let's have a game of cricket, shall we?
- b. Let's watch a movie this afternoon, shall we?

(v) An imperative sentence that expresses impatience or that has the force of a rebuke, takes 'can't you?' as the tag.

Use your common sense, can't you?

8. (i) Although 'everybody' and 'everyone' are singular, for the purpose of a tag question they are usually treated as plural, and referred to by 'they'.

Everybody can't come in first, can they?

Everyone cheered wildly, didn't they?

(ii) 'None of', followed by a plural noun, is also treated as a plural, and takes 'they' in the tag.

None of the workmen arrived in time, did they?

(iii) None of us takes 'we' as the subject of the tag.

None of us knew the way, did we?

(iv) 'Some of us' takes 'we' if the speaker includes himself in the number, but 'they' if he does not.

Some of us wanted to stay longer, didn't we?

On the return journey some of us lost the way, didn't they?

(v) 'Some of you' takes 'you' in the tag.

Some of you are learning French, aren't you?

Exercise 1

Add the appropriate tag to the following sentences. (Remember that when you add the tag the existing full stop must be changed to a comma,)

- 1. We are ready for dinner.
- 2. They are late.
- 3. The car broke down today.
- 4. Anyone can make a mistake.
- 5. She will miss the train if she doesn't hurry.
- 6. The garden looks beautiful.
- 7. The journey was not an easy one.
- 8. The hotel was not too expensive.

9. Let's go and see their new house.
10. He easily loses his temper.
11. Lions are very strong animals.
12. There was not a single seat vacant.
13. We mustn't forget to pay for our tickets.
14. You needn't leave as early as this.
15. We didn't have much money to spare.
16. Your father is a lawyer.
17. I can't go there.
18. He has bought a cycle.
19. They are friends.
20. She wasn't happy.

Answers to Exercise 1

1. We are ready for dinner, aren't we?
2. They are late, aren't they?
3. The car broke down today, didn't it?
4. Anyone can make a mistake, can't they?
5. She will miss the train if she doesn't hurry, won't she?
6. The garden looks beautiful, doesn't it?
7. The journey was not an easy one, was it?
8. The hotel was not too expensive, was it?
9. Let's go and see their new house, shall we?
10. He easily loses his temper, doesn't he?
11. Lions are very strong animals, aren't they?
12. There was not a single seat vacant, was there?
13. We mustn't forget to pay for our tickets, must we?
14. You needn't leave so early as this, do you?
15. We didn't have much money to spare, did we?
16. Your father is a lawyer, isn't he?
17. I can't go there, can I?
18. He has bought a cycle, hasn't he?
19. They are friends, aren't they?
20. She wasn't happy, was she?

Short Answers

There are some questions the answers to which cannot be 'yes' or 'no'. Helping verbs help answering questions in the form of short answers.

For example:

Who told you that I was coming at five o'clock?

Sita did.

Who cleans the classrooms every day?

Mohan does.

Helping verbs can also be used to form short answers to verbal questions.

Are you going to school?

Yes, I am.

No, I'm not.

Can you drive a car?

Yes, I can

No, I can't

Agreements with affirmative statements are made with: yes/so/of course followed by the pronoun and helping verb.

It was a hot day.

Yes, it was.

He has come early.

So, he has.

He can play the piano.

Of course, he can.

Disagreements are also conveyed with the help of "no" followed by the pronoun, helping verb and n't /not. 'but' may be used to disagree with a question or statement.

He has failed.

No, he hasn't.

Why did you fight?

But, I didn't.

She works here.

No, she doesn't.

Assignment 1

Complete the short answers to these questions by adding the helping verb:

- a. How many of you will travel with us?

All of us _____.

- b. How many of you play tennis?

Most of us _____.

- c. How many of you can play chess?

None of us_____.

- d. Who made that house?

I _____.

- e. Who wants to go for a walk?

Ritu_____.

We all_____.

Assignment 2

Give short answers to these questions

- a. Does Vinod work hard?
- b. Is it cold there?
- c. Did he help?

Assignment 3

Agree with the following remarks

- a. The door is shut.

So_____.

- b. The music sounds pleasant.

Yes_____.

- c. You are all learning English quickly.

Of course,_____.

Assignment 4

Disagree with the following remarks

- a. He will have to see the doctor.

No_____.

- b. Why are you so angry?

But_____.

- c. You broke my pencil?

No_____.

- d. We have been here before.

No_____.

- e. Why are you working so hard?

But_____.

Answers

Assignment 1

(a) will (b) do (c) can (d) did (e) does; do

Assignment 2

(a) Yes, he does. No, he doesn't. (b) Yes, it is. No, it isn't. (c) Yes, he did. No, he didn't.

Assignment 3

(a) So it is. (b) Yes, it does. (c) Of course, we are.

Assignment 4

(a) No, he won't. (b) But I'm not. (c) No. I didn't. (d) No, we haven't. (e) But I'm not.