

THE FUNCTIONS OF DO IN ENGLISH

by Alice C. Pack

Present forms		Past forms	
He (She, It)	does	He (She, It)	did
I (You, We, They)	do	I (you, We, They)	did

I. As a main verb (must be followed by an object or modifier 2).

Subject	Verb	Object	Modifier 2
I	did	it.	
She	did	the dishes.	
He	does		well in school.
They	did	the lessons.	
He	did	his work.	
You	did		well.

II. As an auxiliary (base form of verb follows do).

A. for emphasis (pronunciation accents the emphatic auxiliary)

Subject	Auxiliary DO	Verb	Object	Modifier 2
I	did	do	it.	
He	does	believe	it.	
We	did	do	our work.	
You	did	do		well.

B. with negative NOT (*not* is usually contracted to *n't*)

Subject	DO with NOT	Verb	Object	Modifier 2
I	didn't	do	it.	
He	doesn't	believe	it.	
We	didn't	do	our work.	
They	didn't	go.		
I	don't	remember.		
She	doesn't	live		here.
You	didn't	do		well.

C. with questions (positioned before the subject)

Do	Subject	Verb	Object	Modifier 2
Did	he	do	it?	
Does	he	believe	it?	
Do	you	remember?		
Does	she	live		here?
Did	they	do	their work?	
Did	you	do		well?
Did	it	come?		

III.-A. DO in combination with modals and/or the auxiliaries HAVE and BE.

Subject	Modal	Auxiliary HAVE	Auxiliary BE	Verb	
They	can			do	better.
She		has		done	her work.
He	could	have		done	his work.
He			was	doing	his work.
They	must		be	doing	their work.
You	should	have	been	doing	your work.

B. Passive Construction.

Subject	Modal	Auxiliary HAVE	Auxiliary BE	Passive BE	Verb
The work				was	done.
The work	could			be	done.
The work		has		been	done.
The work	should	have		been	done.
The work			was	being	done.
The work	should		be	being	done now.
The work	could	have	been	being	done right now