

Lesson Plan: Emphasis with do/does/did

Level	Advanced (C1)
Time	60–90 minutes
Skills	Grammar, speaking
Focus	Using do/does/did for emphatic assertion, contradiction, and persuasion

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Use emphatic do/does/did to contradict or strongly assert
- Understand the contexts where emphatic do is appropriate and effective
- Use emphatic do in speech and writing for contrast and persuasion
- Distinguish emphatic do from auxiliary do in questions and negatives

TARGET LANGUAGE (EXAMPLES)

Emphatic do for assertion

- I do understand your concerns.
- She does try hard, even if the results aren't always there.
- He did warn them — they simply didn't listen.
- I do wish you would reconsider.

Emphatic do for contradiction

- 'You don't care.' 'I do care — that's exactly the problem.'
- 'He didn't say anything.' 'He did say something — I heard him.'

In writing and formal speech

- We do acknowledge the difficulties this may cause.
- The committee does recognise the urgency of the situation.
- The results did, in fact, support our initial hypothesis.

Imperatives with do

- Do be careful.
- Do let me know if there is anything I can do.
- Do sit down. (polite insistence)

LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Warm-up (10 min)

Task: Read 5 sentences with emphatic do. Students identify: what is being contradicted or asserted?

- 'I did finish the work — you just didn't see it.'
- Elicit: what happens without do? Does the sentence feel weaker?

2. Presentation (15 min)

Task: Three uses: strong assertion, contradiction, and polite formality.

- Note: emphasis is carried by stress in speech.
- In writing, the emphasis is structural — we can't use italics in academic writing.
- Emphatic do cannot be used in negative sentences.

3. Guided practice (10 min)

Task: Add emphatic do to sentences to address the given context.

- Context: 'Someone thinks you forgot to submit the report.' → 'I did submit the report — here's the confirmation email.'
- Context: 'Your boss doubts your commitment.' → ...

4. Debate task (20 min)

Task: Students defend a position that has been challenged.

- Requirement: use emphatic do at least 3 times in defence.
- Topics: work-life balance, urban life, social media, travel.

5. Writing task (10 min)

Task: Write a formal letter of complaint using emphatic do at least twice.

EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one:

1. Write a formal rebuttal to a criticism using emphatic do/does/did.
2. Write a persuasive paragraph on a topic you feel strongly about using emphatic do.
3. Find 5 examples of emphatic do in writing or transcripts. Explain the communicative function of each.