Lesson

Uses of the Verb Do

The helping verbs *do* and *did* are used with a negative word, such as *not*.

EXAMPLES

Many stores do not close on holidays. (present)

Dan did not find his book. (past)

The helping verbs *do* and *did* also are used to form questions.

EXAMPLES

Do you like strawberries? (present)

Did you finish that book? (past)

The helping verbs *do* and *did* are used only with the present form of the main verb.

EXAMPLE

Did you go home? (The verb go is present.)

The verb *do* can also be used as a main verb. The main verb *do* means "to perform an action." It can be used in all tenses.

EXAMPLES

Present:

Brigette does her chores early.

Past:

Victor did his work well.

Future:

Everyone will do his part.

Present perfect:

The family has done its work

well.

Past perfect:

We had done the yard work

by dinnertime.

Future perfect:

Soon he will have done his

lessons.

Activity A Write all the verbs and their helpers in these sentences on your paper.

- 1) Did you see Anita at lunch?
- 2) Jack never did find his gloves.
- **3)** The family is doing the dishes.
- **4)** Do you read the newspaper?
- 5) Where do you do your homework?

Activity B Write the bold verb in these sentences on your paper. Beside it, write whether *do* is a helping verb, a main verb, or both.

Example Soon he will have done his report. will have done—main verb

- 1) After dinner Eric and Melissa did the dishes.
- 2) Finally they had done all their chores.
- 3) Melissa had already done her homework.
- 4) "Did you see my math book?" Eric asked.
- 5) "What did you do with it this time?" she asked.
- 6) "I did not see it today," he said.
- 7) Did Eric ever find his book?
- 8) Soon he was doing his math.

Part A Write the verb or verb phrase in each of these sentences on your paper.

- 1) Yesterday, Tanya did her yard work.
- 2) She was doing yard work all afternoon.
- 3) Soon she will have done the entire yard.
- **4)** She had done all of the weeding, too.
- **5)** Did Tanya complete her tasks?
- **6)** Who does the yard work at your house?

Part B Write the verb or verb phrase in each of these sentences on your paper. Beside each verb or verb phrase, write its tense.

- 1) In the fall, people do extra yard work.
- 2) Did you rake your leaves yet?
- 3) They have already raked their yard.
- 4) Does your family plant grass seed in the fall?
- 5) Soon they will have done the whole yard.
- **6)** I have already done my part.
- 7) Did Dad do the front yard?
- **8)** The boys are doing the pruning.
- 9) They did not trim the fruit trees this year.
- **10)** How does the yard look?

The Conditional Forms

Some helping verbs put a condition on an action. A condition is a requirement or a responsibility.

EXAMPLES	May—Might	He may succeed. He might succeed.
	Can—Could	He can sing. He could sing.
	Shall—Should	You shall leave. You should leave.
	Will—Would	The basket will hold a bushel. He would like that movie.
	Must	I must go now. You must find your paper. They must leave quickly.

Now, look carefully at the main verbs in the verb phrases above. They are all present tense verbs.

Activity A Write the verb phrase in each of these sentences on your paper.

- 1) You may stay at the party until ten o'clock.
- 2) Mo can play the trombone.
- 3) The basket will hold a dozen tomatoes.
- 4) She should do her homework.
- 5) She must finish her report tonight.
- **6)** I would like that play.
- 7) They could join us for dinner.
- 8) We might try that new food.

Conditional form

A helping verb that puts a condition, or a requirement, on an action.

The **conditional forms** of helping verbs are irregular. Do NOT add an -s to the verb when you use it with a singular subject.

EXAMPLES

Singular Subject F

Plural Subject

He may go.

They may go.

Jack must leave.

The men must leave.

All of the other regular verbs and irregular verbs DO either add an -s or change to a different form.

EXAMPLES

Singular Subject

Plural Subject

He sings well.

They **sing** well.

He has gone.

They have gone.

She is going.

They are going.

The conditional form may be combined with the compound tenses.

EXAMPLES

Present perfect tense:

I have gone.

Conditional form:

I could have gone.

He might have gone.

Present progressive form:

I am going.

Conditional progressive

I could be going.

form:

They must be going.

In some sentences, the main verb is not stated. It is understood.

EXAMPLES

Are you doing your homework?

No, but I should. (The rest of the verb phrase, do my homework, is understood.)

Activity B Write the verb that should appear in each sentence to make it correct.

- 1) Every day Andy (exercise, exercises) at the gym.
- 2) They (exercise, exercises) on a regular basis.
- 3) Julian (might, mights) exercise today.
- 4) He would (goes, go) every day if he had the time.

Activity C Write the verb phrase in each of these sentences on your paper.

- 1) Cam's purse will hold many things.
- 2) She should clean it up.
- 3) In fact, she must clean it up.
- **4)** She cannot find anything in it.
- 5) Cam should have bought a new purse.
- 6) She might be buying a new one.
- **7)** Should she buy a new purse?
- 8) Yes, she should.

Write the verb or verb phrase in each of these sentences on your paper.

- 1) Next week, I might be going to Indiana.
- 2) I could have gone last year.
- 3) This year I must go.
- 4) I would leave on Monday if possible.
- 5) I should pack my bags.
- 6) I must take my winter coat.
- 7) I can go by plane.
- 8) I may take only one bag.
- 9) Should I take an umbrella?
- 10) It might rain.

Part B Write a conditional helping verb on your paper to complete each sentence.

- 1) Suke _____ go to the movies with Danny.
- 2) Danny _____ ask her to go.
- 3) Al _____ finish his work by noon.
- **4)** He _____ finish sooner if he hurries.
- 5) Lily said that Erin _____ use the school computer.
- 6) With a computer, Erin _____ write a better paper.
- 7) That computer program _____ catch grammar and spelling errors.
- **8)** Gerry _____ like that program.