

Lesson Four

Negatives and Questions

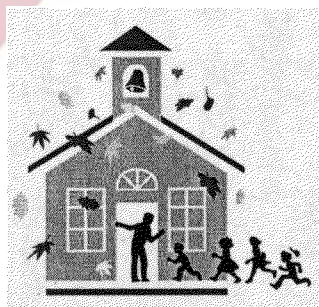
Aims

By the end of this lesson, you will have studied the following:

- negatives
- questions
- possessive adjectives
- possessive pronouns

Context

Do and no are two of the shortest words in the English Language but they are often the most difficult to use correctly. In the next lesson, we look at the continuous form of a verb - how to carry on doing something.



Do

One of the most tricky words in English, short and innocent though it appears is the word *DO*. Look it up in the dictionary, and you will be simply confused as it has such a wide variety of meanings and uses, often covering a whole page of text.

Here we are just going to limit the use of *DO* to two situations:
Negatives and Questions.

Negatives

If you want to say no to anything in the **Present Tense**, (the other tenses have different rules we will look at later...), most verbs in English use the word *DO*. There are some verbs which do not employ the word *DO*, the most important *to be*, which we have looked at in Lesson Two. If you wish to make this verb negative, all you need do is to put *not* after it: e.g. *I am not* and so on.

The verb *to have* can also form its negative by adding *not* to the simple verb e.g. *I have not*, but it has also the alternative of adding *DO* as well: i.e. *I do not have*, where *DO* is simply used as a means of making a negative. Very confusing, but as these verb forms are used very often, practice makes perfect and you get used to it...

Otherwise *DO* is used with most verbs in the negative, and it has no meaning other than showing you have a negative form.

EXAMPLES:

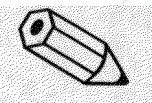
I go I do not go; I write I do not write and so on.

NB Please note in the 3rd Person Singular *DO* changes to *DOES*!

Exceptions

As stated, *to be* and *to have* are exceptions, but there are the following verbs that form negatives without *DO*: they are called MODAL or AUXILIARY verbs; i.e. they cannot be used by themselves but have to go with some other verb; e.g. *I cannot go*, *he must not write*; *we ought not to do it* (please note the extra **to**).

Can goes to cannot (*can't*); must to must not (*mustn't*); ought to ought not (*oughtn't*), will to will not (**won't**), shall to shall not (*shan't*)
 Otherwise all English verbs form their negatives with *DO*. Now let us try some practice of these very contradictory negatives!

Activity 1	Please put the following sentences into the negative:
	<p>a) Paul has his book in his bag.</p> <p>b) We wish to see the film this evening.</p> <p>c) You ought to be in here.</p> <p>d) She writes the letter with a black pen.</p> <p>e) The train arrives promptly.</p>

	f) I must see you! g) They know a great many interesting things. h) The children play in the street.
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Questions

Now we come to the second use in the Present Tense of DO (DOES) in Questions... e.g.

You know - do you know? I have - do I have?
I go – do I go? And so on:

And of course you can have Negative Questions:

e.g. don't you know? Don't I have? Don't I go?

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