

SUBSTITUTION

DO SO

C1 / C2
GRAMMAR

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C2 PROFICIENCY

Learn how to do

Key Word Transformation Exercises

We can use "do so" to replace a verb and the accompanying word or phrase that completes its meaning.

- . When asked if they would extend the deadline, the company indicated they had no intention to do so.

(do so = extend the deadline)

- . She had planned to take up painting as a hobby, but with her busy schedule, she now has little time for doing so.

(doing so = taking up painting)

"Do so" is also used when the verb describes an action, but it is avoided with verbs that describe states and habitual actions.

- . We travelled down the river by boat and witnessed abundant wildlife while doing so.
- . Some friends didn't enjoy the spicy food, but I did.

(not but I did so)

Less formally, we use do it or do that with a similar meaning

- . I rarely speak up in meetings, but that day I felt the need to do it.
- . I climbed the mountain and enjoyed the breathtaking view while doing that.

In informal English, particularly after modals or perfect tenses, we typically use "do" instead of "do so" (although it's often possible to omit it).

- . "Do they provide all the tools?" "They should (do)."
- . "Could you have gone to Ireland instead?"
"Yes, I could have (done)."

