



GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Emphatic Do in Achievement Stories

People and Achievement | Adding emphasis | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner. You may already use this grammar without noticing it.

No.	Question
1	Someone says, 'Hard work doesn't really matter.' Correct them: Hard work ____ matter.
2	Someone says, 'She didn't improve much.' Correct them: She ____ improve after practising.
3	Someone says, 'He only won because he was lucky.' Correct them: He ____ earn that prize.
4	Why might a speaker stress do, does or did when defending someone's achievement?

2. Grammar in context

Read the text. The bold phrases show the grammar used in a natural topic context.

Giving Credit for Effort

Some people think success comes from talent alone, but effort **does matter**. Many successful people practise for years before others notice their achievements.

One young speaker was nervous at first, but she **did improve** after joining a public-speaking club. Her teacher said that she **did work** harder than anyone expected.

Emphasis can also correct a wrong idea. If someone says a student was lucky, a friend might reply, 'He **did earn** that prize because he prepared carefully.'

3. Notice the pattern

Use do, does or did before the main verb to add emphasis in positive sentences.

Use	Form / signal	Example
Present simple	do/does + infinitive	Hard work does matter.
Past simple	did + infinitive	She did improve.
Correcting an idea	emphatic auxiliary	He did earn the prize.
No -s/-ed after does/did	does/did + base verb	She does practise; he did prepare.

4. Build accurate sentences

Complete each sentence using the grammar focus. Then write two examples of your own.

No.	Prompt	Use	Your answer
1	Hard work / matter.	does + base verb	
2	She / improve / after practising.	did + base verb	
3	He / earn / the prize.	did + base verb	
4	Regular practice / help / students succeed.	does + base verb	

1. _____

2. _____

5. Use it in exam answers

Complete the tasks using the grammar focus naturally.

Task	What to do
Speaking	Tell an achievement story and use emphatic do to correct or emphasise a point.
Writing	Write a paragraph about effort and success using emphatic do naturally.
Reading	Underline emphatic do/does/did in the context text.

6. Common mistakes

Correct the mistakes.

No.	Mistake	Your correction
1	Hard work does matters.	
2	She did improved after practising.	
3	He did earned the prize.	
4	Regular practice does helps students.	

7. Topic discussion questions

Use these for pair work, small-group discussion, or speaking-test warm-up practice.

1. Does talent matter more than hard work?
2. Can confidence improve with practice?
3. Why do people sometimes underestimate others?
4. What achievement are you proud of?

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4. Build accurate sentences

1. Hard work does matter.
2. She did improve after practising.
3. He did earn the prize.
4. Regular practice does help students succeed.

Own answers will vary. Check that the grammar focus is accurate and natural.

6. Common mistakes

1. Hard work does matter.
2. She did improve after practising.
3. He did earn the prize.
4. Regular practice does help students.

Notes for checking

1. Present simple: do/does + infinitive - Hard work does matter.
2. Past simple: did + infinitive - She did improve.
3. Correcting an idea: emphatic auxiliary - He did earn the prize.
4. No -s/-ed after does/did: does/did + base verb - She does practise; he did prepare.