

SPECIAL VERBS

Look at these sentences.

You **can** get some rest tonight.

Johnny **will** make a special cocktail.

Can and **will** are part of a special group of verbs that have unique characteristics. We will refer to these verbs as **special verbs**. There are sixteen of them.

be	could	should	ought to
have	may	must	need
do	might	will	dare
can	shall	would	used to

You're already familiar with most of the special verbs. The ones you haven't learned yet will be dealt with later.

USING *DO*, *DOES* OR *DID* FOR EMPHASIS

Look at the sentences below.

You look exhausted.	→	NO EMPHASIS
You do look exhausted.	→	WITH EMPHASIS
Mom sure knows how to cheer you up.	→	NO EMPHASIS
Mom sure does know how to cheer you up.	→	WITH EMPHASIS
I reminded you about Mom's birthday.	→	NO EMPHASIS
I did remind you about Mom's birthday.	→	WITH EMPHASIS

Keep these in mind:



- We use **do**, **does** or **did** in affirmative sentences to give emphasis to what we're saying.
- We put **do**, **does** or **did** before the main verb in the infinitive form without *to*.

Here are some pointers:



We do not use **do**, **does** or **did** for emphasis in sentences already containing a special verb. In these sentences, we can be emphatic orally by altering our tone of voice.

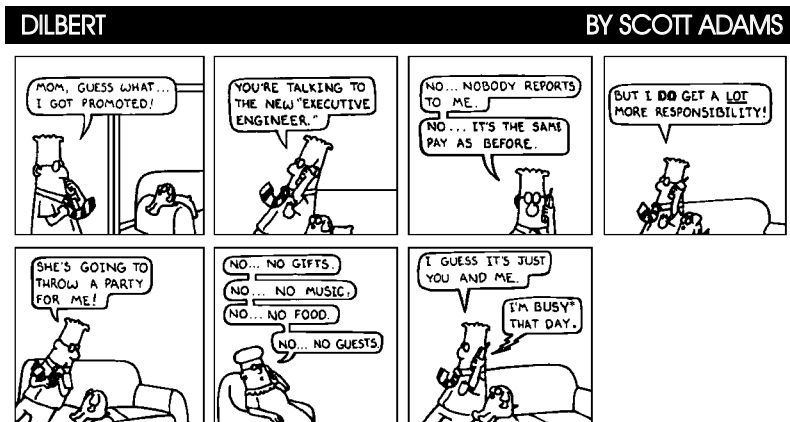
Look at these examples.

She *has* reminded him many times.

You *can* lose weight if you work hard.

They *will* cheer her up.

Have fun reading this comic strip and see how Dilbert uses **do** for emphasis.



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*busy — occupied