

Do so; such

A

Do so

We use **do so** (or **does so**, **did so**, **doing so**, etc.) instead of repeating a verb phrase (a verb and what follows it to complete its meaning) when the context makes clear what we are talking about:

- She won in 2012 and seems likely to **do so** (= win) again this year.
- Dr Lawson said, 'Sit down.' Katia **did so** (= sat down), and explained her problem.
- The climbers will try again today to reach the summit of the mountain. Their chances of **doing so** (= reaching the summit of the mountain) are better than they were last week. (In very formal English we can also use **so doing**.)
- When he was asked to check the figures, he claimed that he **had** already **done so**. (= checked the figures)

Do so is most often used in formal spoken and written English. In informal English we can use **do it** or **do that** instead:

- Mrs Chen waved as she walked past. She **does so / it / that** every morning.
- Ricardo told me to put in a new battery. I **did so / it / that**, but the radio still doesn't work.

We can also use **do** alone rather than **do so** in less formal English, especially after modals or perfect tenses (see also B):

- 'Will this program work on your computer?' 'It *should do*.'
- I told you that I'd finish the work by today, and I *have done*. ('have' is stressed here)

B

We can use **do so** instead of verbs that describe *actions*, but we avoid **do so** with verbs that describe *states* and *habitual actions*. Compare:

- 65% of the members voted for Katie Brown this time, whereas 84% **did so** last year.
- Kenyon confessed to the murder, although he only **did so** after a number of witnesses had identified him as the killer.
- I gave her the medicine, and I take full responsibility for **doing so**. *and*
- Lars doesn't like Facebook but Emma **does**.
- He earned a lot more than I **did**.
- I don't have time to go swimming every day, but I *usually do*.

C

Such

We can use **such + (a / an) + noun** to refer back to something mentioned before, with the meaning 'of this / that kind'. We use **such + noun** when the noun is uncountable or plural, and **such + a / an + noun** when the noun is countable and singular. **Such** is used in this way mainly in formal speech and writing:

- The students refer to teachers by their first names and will often criticise them for badly prepared lessons. **Such behaviour** is unacceptable in most schools. (*more informally* Behaviour like this ...)
- When asked about rumours that the company is preparing to lose more than 200 jobs, a spokeswoman said: 'I know of no **such plans**.' (*more informally* ... no plans of this kind.)
- They needed someone who was both an excellent administrator and manager. **Such a person** was not easy to find. (*more informally* A person like this ...)
- We allow both men and women to have time off work to look after children. We were the first department to introduce **such a scheme**. (*more informally* ... a scheme like this.)

Exercises

63.1 Join each pair of sentences with either **and** or **but**, replacing the repeated verb + object / complement with a form of **do** followed by **so**. **A**

1 Johnson never won an Olympic medal. He twice came close to winning an Olympic medal.
Johnson never won an Olympic medal, but twice came close to doing so.

2 She was asked to teach more classes. She was happy to teach more classes.

3 My French hosts gave me snails to eat. I ate them very reluctantly.

4 The company wanted to build a new dam on the site. They were prevented from building the dam by local opposition.

5 All EU countries agreed to implement the new regulations on recycling plastic. So far only Finland and Austria have implemented the new regulations.

6 The water freezes in the cracks in rocks. As it freezes, it expands.

63.2 Complete these sentences with a form of **do** (+ **so** if possible). **B**

1 If you have not already handed in the form, then please without delay.

2 Olav drives much faster than you

3 He jumped down from the window, but in twisted his ankle.

4 I know that many people don't enjoy Felipe's blog, but I

5 Anyone crossing the railway at their own risk.

6 I thought Julie was joking when she said these apples smell like oranges. But they!

7 When we play tennis Leyla usually wins, and she gets upset if I

8 She pointed to the old box, her hand shaking as she

63.3 Complete the sentences with **such** or **such a** / **an** followed by a word from the box in the singular or plural. **C**

claim destruction ~~device~~ project research tactic

1 Manufacturers often claim that their washing machines have built-in computers, but is there really a computer in *such a device*?

2 After Professor Sharma spoke about her work on climate change, she called on the government to put more money into

3 Television is sometimes said to harm children's social development, yet the evidence for is often lacking.

4 Building a new power station would undoubtedly create new jobs, but has the environmental impact of been considered fully?

5 The earthquake demolished thousands of buildings. The country has rarely seen before.

6 United played very defensively in the second half, but were criticised by the team's supporters.

63.4 Rewrite the sentences in 63.3 to make them less formal. **C**

1 *... but is there really a computer in a device like this? / ... like that?*