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C1 EMPHASIS ≈ 27 MIN

Emphasis and Intensifiers — *practice on paper*

You know emphatic do, really, actually, indeed, and very versus absolutely; now reinforce meaning, form, and register.

Reinforce verbs with **do/does/did + base form**; typically pair **very with gradable and absolutely with absolute adjectives**.

NAME _____ DATE _____

YOUR BUILD — 1 · SORTING ○ — 2 · FILL-IN ○ — 3 · CORRECT ○ — 4 · WRITE ○

BRICK 1 · SORT VERY AND ABSOLUTELY · APPROX. 4 MIN ●○○

Sort each phrase by the lesson's core tendency. On the left, very scales a gradable adjective; on the right, absolutely reinforces an absolute endpoint.

tired after the late call | busy this afternoon | useful for new staff | difficult to summarize | careful with client data | exhausted after the audit | certain about the total | impossible by noon | excellent in every section | fine after the revision

GRADABLE	ABSOLUTE

BRICK 2 · COMPLETE THE SUITABLE EMPHASIS · APPROX. 6 MIN ●●○

Insert the intensifier required by the function label. With emphatic do, keep the main verb in the base form.

01 Neutral intensity: I _____ value your detailed feedback.

02 Emphatic present: We _____ regret the confusion.

03 Emphatic past: Mara _____ send the revised chart.

04 Correction meaning in fact: We _____ have a backup file.

05 Formal confirmation: The totals are _____ correct.

06 Gradable pairing: The team felt _____ tired by six.

07 Absolute pairing: The team felt _____ exhausted afterwards.

08 Absolute assessment: The corrected version is _____ fine.

YOUR BUILD | 1 · SORTING | 2 · FILL-IN | 3 · CORRECT | 4 · WRITE

BRICK 3 · FIND AND CORRECT THE EMPHASIS ERROR · APPROX. 7 MIN

Each sentence contains exactly one error in the target pattern. Rewrite it in full and treat adjective pairings as core tendencies.

01 The director does supports the revised timetable.

02 They did forwarded the message before lunch.

03 Our actually deadline is Monday.

04 The crew was very exhausted after the inspection.

05 Her final summary was very excellent.

06 The revised totals are indeedly correct.

BRICK 4 · WRITE WITH PRECISE EMPHASIS · APPROX. 8 MIN

Write one English sentence for each prompt. Identify whether you reinforce a verb, stance, or adjective degree.

01 Diplomatic apology: reinforce apologise with emphatic do.

02 Factual correction: use actually with the meaning in fact.

03 More formal confirmation: use indeed for a checked finding.

04 Two adjectives: use very with a gradable adjective and absolutely with an absolute adjective.

MINI-CHECK — CAN I DO THIS YET?

- I use the base form after emphatic do, does, or did.
- I use actually for in fact and current for German aktuell.
- I distinguish neutral really from the often more formal indeed.
- I treat very and absolutely as typical, not absolute adjective tendencies.

Still unsure? Mark the target, meaning, and register of each emphasis choice first, then try the sheet again.

Answer key

Check only when you have finished. Every answer comes with the **why** — the rule matters more than the result.

BRICK 1 · SORTING

01 tired after the late call
Gradable: very typically fits tired.

02 busy this afternoon
Gradable: very typically fits busy.

03 useful for new staff
Gradable: very typically fits useful.

04 difficult to summarize
Gradable: very typically fits difficult.

05 careful with client data
Gradable: very typically fits careful.

06 exhausted after the audit
Absolute: absolutely typically fits exhausted.

07 certain about the total
Absolute: absolutely typically fits certain.

08 impossible by noon
Absolute: absolutely typically fits impossible.

09 excellent in every section
Absolute: absolutely typically fits excellent.

10 fine after the revision
Absolute: absolutely typically fits fine.

BRICK 2 · FILL-IN

01 Neutral intensity: I **really** value your detailed feedback.
Neutral intensity: really strengthens the appreciation.

02 Emphatic present: We **do** regret the confusion.
Emphatic do: do reinforces the present verb.

03 Emphatic past: Mara **did** send the revised chart.
Emphatic do: did reinforces the past verb.

04 Correction meaning in fact: We **actually** have a backup file.
Correction: actually means in fact here.

05 Formal confirmation: The totals are **indeed** correct.
Formal tendency: indeed confirms the finding.

06 Gradable pairing: The team felt **very** tired by six.
Gradable: very typically fits tired.

07 Absolute pairing: The team felt **absolutely** exhausted afterwards.
Absolute: absolutely typically fits exhausted.

08 Absolute assessment: The corrected version is **absolutely** fine.
Absolute: absolutely reinforces the complete assessment.

BRICK 3 · CORRECT

01 The director does **support** the revised timetable.
Emphatic do: does takes the base form.

02 They did **forward** the message before lunch.
Emphatic do: did takes the base form.

03 Our **current** deadline is Monday.
False friend: current means at present here.

04 The crew was **absolutely exhausted** after the inspection.
Absolute tendency: exhausted typically pairs with absolutely.

05 Her final summary was **absolutely excellent**.
Absolute tendency: excellent typically pairs with absolutely.

06 The revised totals are **indeed** correct.
Formal tendency: indeed is the suitable intensifier.

BRICK 4 · WRITE

Your sentences may differ if form, meaning, adjective type, and register fit the prompt.

01 For the unclear instructions, I **do apologise**.
Emphatic do: do reinforces the apology.

02 We **actually** have a second copy available.
Correction: actually means in fact here.

03 The checked figures are **indeed** accurate.
Formal tendency: indeed confirms the finding.

04 The analyst was **very tired**, but her conclusion was **absolutely correct**.
Adjective choice: both intensifiers follow the core tendency.

NEXT BRICKS — KEEP BUILDING FREE ONLINE

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