

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 **do/does/did +** ; typically **very with gradable** and **absolutely with**
with **base form** pair **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
<i>Gradable: very typically fits tired.</i> | 06 exhausted after the audit
<i>Absolute: absolutely typically fits exhausted.</i> |
| 02 busy this afternoon
<i>Gradable: very typically fits busy.</i> | 07 certain about the total
<i>Absolute: absolutely typically fits certain.</i> |
| 03 useful for new staff
<i>Gradable: very typically fits useful.</i> | 08 impossible by noon
<i>Absolute: absolutely typically fits impossible.</i> |
| 04 difficult to summarize
<i>Gradable: very typically fits difficult.</i> | 09 excellent in every section
<i>Absolute: absolutely typically fits excellent.</i> |
| 05 careful with client data
<i>Gradable: very typically fits careful.</i> | 10 fine after the revision
<i>Absolute: absolutely typically fits fine.</i> |

BRICK 2 · FILL-IN

- | | |
|---|---|
| 01 Neutral intensity: I really value your detailed feedback.
<i>Neutral intensity: really strengthens the appreciation.</i> | 05 Formal confirmation: The totals are indeed correct.
<i>Formal tendency: indeed confirms the finding.</i> |
| 02 Emphatic present: We do regret the confusion.
<i>Emphatic do: do reinforces the present verb.</i> | 06 Gradable pairing: The team felt very tired by six.
<i>Gradable: very typically fits tired.</i> |
| 03 Emphatic past: Mara did send the revised chart.
<i>Emphatic do: did reinforces the past verb.</i> | 07 Absolute pairing: The team felt absolutely exhausted afterwards.
<i>Absolute: absolutely typically fits exhausted.</i> |
| 04 Correction meaning in fact: We actually have a backup file.
<i>Correction: actually means in fact here.</i> | 08 Absolute assessment: The corrected version is absolutely fine.
<i>Absolute: absolutely reinforces the complete assessment.</i> |

BRICK 3 · CORRECT

- | | |
|---|---|
| 01 The director does support the revised timetable.
<i>Emphatic do: does takes the base form.</i> | 04 The crew was absolutely exhausted after the inspection.
<i>Absolute tendency: exhausted typically pairs with absolutely.</i> |
| 02 They did forward the message before lunch.
<i>Emphatic do: did takes the base form.</i> | 05 Her final summary was absolutely excellent .
<i>Absolute tendency: excellent typically pairs with absolutely.</i> |
| 03 Our current deadline is Monday.
<i>False friend: current means at present here.</i> | 06 The revised totals are indeed correct.
<i>Formal tendency: indeed is the suitable intensifier.</i> |

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 .
<i>Emphatic do: do reinforces the apology.</i> | 03 The checked figures are indeed accurate.
<i>Formal tendency: indeed confirms the finding.</i> |
| 02 We actually have a second copy available.
<i>Correction: actually means in fact here.</i> | 04 The analyst was very tired , but her conclusion was absolutely correct .
<i>Adjective choice: both intensifiers follow the core tendency.</i> |

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