

Grammar Explanation

Fixing verbs that are missing a final -s

- In the present tense, add an –s to the base form of the verb if the subject is or can be replaced by *he, she, or it*.
 - Example: **The government collects** taxes; **it uses** the tax revenue to pay its expenses.
- Also add an –s to the base form of the verb if the subject is an indefinite pronoun, such as *everybody, everyone, or no one*.
 - Example: **Everybody wants** to have health and happiness.
- Use *does not/doesn't* + the base form of the verb if the subject is or can be replaced by *he, she, or it* (or is an indefinite pronoun).
 - Incorrect: **He don't agree** with the decision.
 - Corrected: **He doesn't agree** with the decision.
- Do not add an –s to the verb that follows a modal verb (e.g., *can, could, should, must*) or to the modal verb itself.
 - Incorrect: **The president can vetoes** bills that are passed by Congress.
 - Corrected: **The president can veto** bills that are passed by Congress.

Excerpted from: Verb Forms: Exercise 2