

In fact, these *to do* forms of the verb, in a strict sense, don't actually represent *ellipsis*, because these forms of the verb don't actually *assume/leave out* any words (the way *ellipsis* does), but just *stand for* the main verb in the sentence.

**Note:** *To do* forms of the verb can stand for the main verb of the sentence *only if* the main verb of the sentence is an *action* verb. On the other hand, if the main verb of the sentence is a *linking* verb, the *to do* forms of the verb *cannot* stand for the main verb.

For example, following sentence is *incorrect*:

*Peter is more hard-working than his grandfather did.*

The main verb of this sentence is a *linking* verb (*is*) and hence, we *cannot* use *did*.

We fix this sentence as:

*Peter is more hard-working than his grandfather was.*

On the other hand, following sentence is *correct*:

*Peter works harder than his grandfather did.*

The main verb of this sentence is an *action* verb (*works*) and hence, we can use *did* to stand for the simple past tense verb *worked*.