The Do, Does, Did Problem

Re: "the meaningless do"
Whether true or not, the only decent explanation that I've seen is in *Our Magnificent Bastard Tongue*, by John McWhorter. He says,
"1. The Angles, Saxons, and Jutes encountered Celtic speakers. 2. *Meaningless do* in the affirmative, negative and interrogative is found nowhere on earth except in Celtic and English."
McWhorter points out that Welsh still uses **do** in affirmative sentences as well as in negatives and questions. English has lost the affirmative **do** except for emphasis.

In any case, we have to teach it!

The MICE
The X-Word Grammar wiki has a video of Linda Kunz teaching this concept using the "do mice."
http://xwordgrammar.pbworks.com/w/page/7067857/Video%3A%20The%20Do%20Mice
Pictures of the mice are available on the wiki if you want to download them and print them out.

 Grammar confusion
1) Students often insert an unnecessary "be" verb
        Example 1: "I was go." instead of "I went."

        Example 2: The dogs play together <u>in the yard.</u>
        Directions: Write the question for the underlined words. Make the negative sentence.
        Where **are** they play together.
        The dogs are not play together.

2) They don't change the main verb to Vb

Example 2: The big cat loves to chase the dog.

      The big cat **doesn't loves** to chase the dog.

      Does the big cat loves to chase the dogs

      What **is** the big cat **loves?**

3) 3rd person Singular S/V agreement

      The big **cat** **don't** love to chase the lazy dogs.

      When do you use an "s" on an X-Word or a Verb?

	I, we, you, you (pl), they pens (pl nouns)	he, she, it a pen, rice (uncountable noun), studying (gerund)
Present feeling→	have, do, am, are, VxO	ha**s**, doe**s**, i**s**, Vx**S**
Past feeling→	were	was
	had, did	
Modals→	can, could, shall, should, will, would, must, might, may	

If there is no s on the subject, you might need an "s" on the verb.

4) In questions, students don't bother with the X-Word at all;

      they just go up at the end. "We have a test today?"

Vocabulary

Grammar terms in lesson 9

      hidden

      affirmative

The exercises in this lesson have a vocabulary of 159 words.

Some collocations:

      violent video games

      worry about

      take risks

Time expressions

Lydon/Gex/Hart

VXO & VXS	VXD	Either
every day all the time before he plays	last night	all night on time for two hours a night

Pronunciation

negatives: X-Words normally are not stressed, but as soon as they become negative, they gain weight!

We **don't like** that <u>po</u>-li-**<u>ti</u>-**cian.

The extra syllable from "don't" helps the listener know that the negative is there (unlike some very common 1-syllable negatives of the visible X-Words; can't aren't weren't) but pronouncing the "t" is still important.
Compare: 3 beats →He can go. He can't go.   2→He goes. 4→He doesn't go.

Again, if the middle word or main verb starts with a vowel sound, the "t" will link to it.
Don't ask. →/ dohn task./

In questions, this is what our students hear when Americans speak. At best.
dooyah
duhzee
didjah

djeet yet? (Did you eat yet?) Is fun to practice with