

Auxiliary verbs (have/do/can etc.)

I think so / I hope so etc.

A

In each of these sentences there is an auxiliary verb and a main verb:

I	have	lost	my keys.
She	can't	come	to the party.
The hotel	was	built	ten years ago.
Where	do you	live?	

In these examples **have/can't/was/do** are auxiliary (= helping) verbs.

You can use an auxiliary verb when you don't want to repeat something:

- ☐ 'Have you locked the door?' 'Yes, I **have**.' (= I have *locked the door*)
- ☐ Gary wasn't working, but Laura **was**. (= Laura was *working*)
- ☐ Jessica could lend me the money, but she **won't**. (= she won't *lend me the money*)

Use **do/does/did** for the present and past simple:

- ☐ 'Do you like onions?' 'Yes, I **do**.' (= I *like onions*)
- ☐ 'Does Simon live in London?' 'He **did**, but he **doesn't** any more.'

You can use auxiliary verbs to deny what somebody says (= say it is not true):

- ☐ 'You're sitting in my place.' 'No, I **'m not**.' (= I'm not *sitting in your place*)
- ☐ 'You didn't lock the door before you left.' 'Yes, I **did**.' (= I *locked the door*)

B

We use **have you? / isn't she? / do they?** etc. to show interest in what somebody has said, or to show surprise:

- ☐ 'I've just seen Stephen.' 'Oh, **have you?** How is he?'
- ☐ 'Lisa isn't very well today.' 'Oh, **isn't she?** What's wrong with her?'
- ☐ 'It rained every day during our holiday.' '**Did it?** What a shame!'
- ☐ 'James and Tanya are getting married.' '**Are they?** Really?'

C

We use auxiliary verbs with **so** and **neither**:

- ☐ 'I'm tired.' '**So am I**.' (= I'm tired too)
- ☐ 'I never read newspapers.' '**Neither do I**.' (= I never read newspapers either)
- ☐ Sarah hasn't got a car and **neither has Mark**.

Note the word order after **so** and **neither** (verb before subject):

- ☐ I passed the exam and **so did Paul**. (*not so Paul did*)

Instead of **neither**, you can use **nor**. You can also use **not ... either**:

- ☐ 'I don't know.' '**Neither do I**.' or '**Nor do I**.' or 'I don't **either**.'

D

I think so / I hope so etc.

After some verbs we use **so** when we don't want to repeat something:

- ☐ 'Are those people Korean?' '**I think so**.' (= I think *they are Korean*)
- ☐ 'Will you be at home this evening?' '**I expect so**.' (= I expect *I'll be at home ...*)
- ☐ 'Do you think Kate has been invited to the party?' '**I suppose so**.'

In the same way we say: **I hope so, I guess so** and **I'm afraid so**.

The usual negative forms are:

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| I think so / I expect so | → | I don't think so / I don't expect so |
| I hope so / I'm afraid so / I guess so | → | I hope not / I'm afraid not / I guess not |
| I suppose so | → | I don't suppose so or I suppose not |
- ☐ 'Is that woman American?' '**I think so. / I don't think so.**'
 - ☐ 'Do you think it will rain?' '**I hope so. / I hope not.**' (*not I don't hope so*)