

Verbs

AUXILIARY VERBS

Auxiliary Verbs - Introduction

Auxiliary verbs are also called helper verbs.

The main auxiliary verbs are 'be', 'do' and 'have'.

Modal auxiliary verbs have their own lesson.

They can also function as the main verb in a sentence.

'Be' is used in the passive voice.

'Be' and 'have' are used as auxiliaries for verb aspects.

'Do' is used to negate main verbs or to ask questions.

Auxiliary Verbs – Passive Formation

‘Be’ is used to in the passive voice.

- John F. Kennedy *was* assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald.
- The shop *is* usually opened by the manager.
- Generous donations *are being* sent to the charity fund.

Please see the lesson on active and passive voice for more details.

Auxiliary Verbs – Aspect Formation

‘Be’ and ‘have’ are used as auxiliaries for verb aspects.

‘Be’ is used to form continuous aspects.

‘Have’ is used to form perfect aspects.

Both are used together to form perfect continuous aspects.

The verbs must be correctly conjugated here.

Please see the ‘Tenses and Aspects’ section for more information.

Auxiliary Verbs – Aspect Examples #1

‘Be’ is used to form continuous aspects.

The correct conjugation is required for the tense being used.

- Paul *was working* the night shift last week. (past)
- James *was not working* nights. (past, negative)
- My parents *are visiting* us now. (present)
- I *will be leaving* early tomorrow. (future)

Please see the appropriate lessons in the ‘Tenses and Aspects’ section for more information.

Auxiliary Verbs – Aspect Examples #2

‘Have’ is used to form perfect aspects.

The correct conjugation is required for the tense being used.

- I *had worked* as a programmer before moving to sales. (past)
- Jane *has lived* in London all her life. (present)
- John *will have finished* his report by Thursday. (future)
- Eddie *won't have finished* his report by then. (future, negative)

Please see the appropriate lessons in the ‘Tenses and Aspects’ section for more information.

Auxiliary Verbs – Aspect Examples #3

‘Be’ and ‘have’ are used together to form perfect continuous aspects.

The correct conjugation is required for the tense being used.

- We *had been working* 14 hours a day. (past)
- Tom *has been trying* to get in touch with you all week. (present)
- Bill *hasn't been looking* for a new job. (present, negative)
- Next year, Joe *will have been working* here for 25 years. (future)

Please see the appropriate lessons in the ‘Tenses and Aspects’ section for more information.

Auxiliary Verbs – Negation Formation

‘Do’ is used to negate main verbs.

If the main verb doesn’t already use an auxiliary verb (for example the negative examples in the previous slides), we use ‘do’ to negate it.

We conjugate the verb ‘to do’, add a ‘not’ and then the main verb in its base form.

The verb ‘to be’ is an exception and can be negated with ‘not’.

Auxiliary Verbs – Negation Examples #1

We conjugate the verb 'to do', add a 'not' and then the main verb in its base form.

- Peter works in a restaurant.
- ~~Peter works not in a restaurant.~~
- Peter doesn't work in a restaurant.

- Penny lived in the city.
- ~~Penny lived not in the city.~~
- Penny didn't live in the city.

Auxiliary Verbs – Negation Examples #2

The verb 'to be' is an exception and can be negated with 'not'.

- Polly is late for work. (present)
- Polly isn't late for work. (isn't = is not)

- Joan was first in her class. (past)
- Joan wasn't first in her class. (wasn't = was not)

- Don will be here soon. (future, shown for completeness)
- Don won't be here soon. (won't = will not)

Auxiliary Verbs – Question Formation

‘Do’ is used to ask questions.

If the main verb doesn’t already use an auxiliary verb, we use ‘do’ to for the question.

We conjugate and invert the verb ‘to do’ and then the main verb in its base form.

The verb ‘to be’ is an exception and can be simply inverted to make a question.

Auxiliary Verbs – Question Examples #1

‘Do’ is used to ask questions.

➤ Peter works in a restaurant.

➤ ~~Works Peter in a restaurant?~~

➤ Does Peter work in a restaurant?

➤ Penny lived in the city.

➤ ~~Lived Penny in the city?~~

➤ Did Penny live in the city?

Auxiliary Verbs – Question Formation

The verb 'to be' is an exception and can be simply inverted to make a question.

- You were here yesterday. (past)
- Were you here yesterday?

- You are happy. (present)
- Are you happy?

- You will be fine on the day. (future, shown for completeness)
- Will you be fine on the day?