

Auxiliary Verbs

Hello and welcome, back in this lesson we will be exploring auxiliary verbs.

We will find out what they are and how to use them.



What is an auxiliary verb?

An auxiliary verb helps add functional or grammatical meaning to the sentence in which it appears. Auxiliary verbs can help change the tense, mood, or voice of the sentence.



Be, do, and have can be used either as a main verb or an auxiliary verb. Let's take a look at them being used as auxiliary verbs.

Be:

Is used in 'continuous' sentences:



I am flying.



She is cooking a meal.

Is used in passive sentences:



I was punched by James.



It was told of by its owner.

Do:

Is used in negative sentences:



I do not understand.



She doesn't look happy.

Is used in questions:



Do you know the way?



Did it work?

Have:

Is used in perfect sentences:



I have fixed it.



We have made it.

Other auxiliary verbs

The verbs *will, would, shall, should, can, could, may, might, and must* cannot be the main verbs alone.

They are used only as auxiliary verbs and **always** need a main verb to follow.



Will:

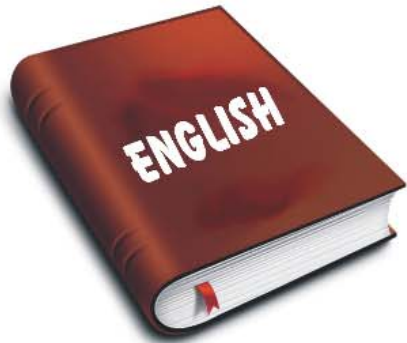
Used to express desire, preference, choice, or consent:



I will marry you.



Will you leave me alone?



I will learn English.

Used to express the future:



The summer will be here.



Used to express capacity or capability:



The bottle will hold 1 litre.

This can will store food for years.

Used to express determination, insistence, or persistence:



I will do what you asked.

Would

(Would is the past of will)

Often used in auxiliary functions with rather to express preference.



I would rather sunbathe.

Used to express a wish or desire:
I would like to have pizza.



Used to express contingency or possibility:
I would be rich, if I won the lottery.



Used to express routine or habitual things:
Normally, I would stop work at 10.



Shall

Used to politely ask a question.



Shall we go to the movies?



Shall we go home?

Used to deliver obligation or requirement.



You shall listen to me now.



There shall be no changes to the rules.

Should

(should is the past form of shall)

Often used in auxiliary functions to express an opinion, suggestion, preference, or idea:



You should take out the trash.



He should go to the dentist.

Used to express that you wish something had happened but it didn't or couldn't:



You should have tried it.



He should have gone home.

Used to ask for someone's opinion:



What should I wear?



Should we go shopping?

Used to say something expected or correct:



There should be a café here.



He should be 20 tomorrow.

Can

Used to express ability.



I can play football.



She can't speak German.

Used to ask for permission:



Can I use your hairbrush?



Can I go home?

Used to make requests or suggestions:



Can I have a holiday?



Can you pay me?

Could

(Could is the past form of can)

Describes an ability that someone had in the past:



I could ride a bike.



You could see for miles.

Often used in auxiliary functions to express permission politely:



Could I dance with you?



You could can stay over.

Used to express possibility:



They could come with me.



You could always visit.

May

Used to ask for formal permission:



May I try some?



May I talk?

Used to suggest something that is possible:



She may be allowed on.



They may not like it.

Might

(Might is the past form of May)

Used to suggest a smaller possibility than may does.



She might talk.



I might go home.

Must

Used to express something that is required or necessary:



I must leave now.



He must pay his bills.

Used to show that something is very likely:



He must be happy.



You must be quiet.