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English language

Third Stage

Unit One

auxiliary verbs

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UNIT 1

Introduction to auxiliary verbs

There are three classes of verbs in English.

1 The auxiliary verbs do, be, and have These are used to form tenses, and to show forms such as questions and negatives.

2 Modal auxiliary verbs Must, can, should, might, will, and would are examples of modal auxiliary verbs. They 'help' other verbs, but unlike do, be, and have, they have their own meanings. For example, must expresses obligation and can expresses ability

3 Full verbs These are all the other verbs in the language, for example, play, run, help, think, want, go, etc. Do, be, and have can also be used as full verbs with their own meanings.

do

I *do* my washing on Saturdays.

She *does* a lot of business in Eastern Europe.

What do you *do*? = What's your job? (The first do is an auxiliary; the second is a full verb.)

be

We *are* in class at the moment.

They *were* at home yesterday.

I want *to be* a teacher.

have

He *has* a lot of problems.

They *have* three children.

A note on have and have got

There are two forms of the verb have: have as a full verb with *do/does/did* for questions, negatives, and short answers and have got where have is an auxiliary.

1.1 Tenses and auxiliary verbs

When *do*, *be*, and *have* are used as auxiliary verbs, they make different verb forms.

do

In the Present Simple and the Past Simple there is no auxiliary verb, so *do*, *does*, and *did* are used to make questions and negatives (except with *be/have* got).

Where *do* you work?

She *doesn't* like her job.

What *did* you buy?

We *didn't* buy anything

be

1. Be + verb + -ing is used to make continuous verb forms.

Continuous verb forms describe activities in progress and temporary activities.

He's *washing* his hair. (Present Continuous)

They *were going* to work. (Past Continuous)

I've *been learning* English for two years. (Present Perfect Continuous)

I'd like to be walking along the beach right now. (Continuous infinitive)

2. Be + past participle is used to form the passive.

Paper is *made* from wood. (Present Simple passive)

My car *was stolen* yesterday. (Past Simple passive)

The house *has been* redecorated. (Present Perfect passive)

This homework needs *to be done* tonight. (Passive infinitive)

have

Have + past participle is used to make perfect verb forms.

He *has worked* in seven different countries. (Present Perfect)

She was crying because she *had had* some bad news. (Past Perfect)

I'd like to *have met* Napoleon. (Perfect infinitive)

1.2 Negatives and auxiliary verbs

To make a negative, add -n't to the auxiliary verb. If there is no auxiliary verb, use don't/doesn't/didn't.

Positive

He's working

I wasn't thinking.

We've seen the play.

She works in a bank.

They like skiing.

He went on holiday.

Negative

He isn't working.

I wasn't thinking.

We haven't seen the play.

She doesn't work in a bank.

They don't like skiing.

He didn't go on holiday.

It is possible to contract the auxiliaries be and have and use the uncontracted not.

He's **not** playing today. (= He isn't playing today.)

We're **not** going to Italy after all. (= We aren't going to Italy ...)

I've **not** read that book yet. (= I haven't read the book yet.) verb, so pt with

But

I'm **not** working. NOT ~~I amn't working~~

1.3 Questions and auxiliary verbs

1. To make a question, invert the subject and the auxiliary verb. If there is no auxiliary verb, use do/does/did.

She's wearing jeans.

You aren't working.

You were born in Paris.

Peter's been to China.

We have been studying.

I know you

He wants ice-cream.

They didn't go out.

Question

What *is she* wearing?

Why *aren't you* working?

Where *were you* born?

Has Peter been to China?

Have you been studying?

Do I know you?

What *does he* want?

Why *didn't they* go out? go out.

2. There is usually no do/does/did in subject questions. Compare: Who wants ice-cream? What happened to your eye? Who broke the window? What flavour ice-cream do you want? What did you do to your eye? How did you break the window? or No, it can sound rude. We use short answers after Yes/No questions. Short answers are very common in spoken English. If you just say Yes To make a short answer, repeat the auxiliary verb. In the Present and Past Simple, use *do/does/did*.

1.4 Short answers and auxiliary verbs

Are you coming with us?

Have you had breakfast?

Kate likes walking.

Mary didn't phone.

Don't forget to write

Short answer

Yes, I am.

No, I haven't.

No, she doesn't. She hates it.

Yes, she did. You were out.

No, I won't