

Auxiliary Verbs "Be," "Do," "Have"

An auxiliary verb helps the main (full) verb and is also called a "helping verb." With auxiliary verbs, you can write sentences in different tenses, moods, or voices. Auxiliary verbs are: *be, do, have, will, shall, would, should, can, could, may, might, must, ought*, etc.

- I think I should study harder to master English.
- I am having a cup of coffee.
- You have been practicing hard.
- It was written by a petitioner.
- You may choose what you like.

The verb forms of *be, do, and have* can be used either as a main (full) verb or an auxiliary verb. The following examples show these verbs used as auxiliary verbs.

1. "Be" as an auxiliary verb

a. Used in progressive sentences:

- I am taking a bath.
- She is preparing dinner for us.
- They have been studying all night.

b. Used in passive sentences:

- I was given a free meal.
- He was seen by fans at the airport.
- This song has been sung by all nations.

2. "Do" as an auxiliary verb

a. Used in negative sentences:

- I do not know the truth.
- She doesn't agree with me.
- They didn't arrive here yet.

b. Used in questions:

- Do you want to have another one?
- Did he finish his homework?
- Do we need to keep going straight?

3. "Have" as an auxiliary verb

a. Used in perfect sentences:

- I have been following you for a mile.
- We have done a lot so far.
- She had been queen of the town.

[Quiz 19.1]

Identify all auxiliary verbs in the following paragraph.

I have just heard that you didn't attend the meeting yesterday. Did you have a conflict with that time? I must ask that you explain the reason.

[Quiz 19.2]

Which of the following sentences does not show any auxiliary verbs?

- 1) I didn't have any reason to go there.
- 2) Have we practiced this song enough?
- 3) Three seats have been reserved for us.
- 4) I am a professor in the economics department.