

Helping verb – to be

Introduction

1) We use auxiliary verbs to form questions, negative sentences, compound tenses (the perfect tense or the continuous tense), or the passive voice. Auxiliary verbs are also known as *helping verbs*. They are used together with a main verb to give grammatical information and additional meaning to a sentence.

Although there are 23 helping verbs in English, which include modal verbs (can, must etc.), the basic auxiliary verbs are *to be*, *to do*, *to have*.

2) *To be* is the most common verb in English. It can be used as an auxiliary and a main verb.

*My sister **is** kind. (main verb)*

*My sister **is cooking** dinner. (auxiliary verb; helps to build the present continuous tense)*

Note that the verb *to be* is irregular.

Base form	be	To be, or not to be, that is the question.
Present form	am/is/are	I am a doctor, my brother is a teacher, and my cousins are bakers.
Past form	was/were	My friends were out partying all night, and I was studying for the exam.
Present Participle/Gerund	being	Being an affectionate person has helped him in life.
Past Participle	been	I have never been that happy!

You can use the auxiliary verb *to be*:

a) when you don't want to repeat something.

*Everyone was working that day, but I **wasn't**. (=I wasn't working.)*

b) to deny something or say that it is not true.

*You're being unreasonable. – No, **I'm not**. (=I'm not being unreasonable.)*

c) to show interest in what somebody has said, or to show surprise.

*Kelly and Peter are dating. – **Are they?** Really?*

d) with *so* (when you agree) and *neither/nor* (when you disagree). In this case, an auxiliary verb goes before the subject.

*I'm sleepy. – **So am I.** (=I'm sleepy too.)*

*My parents are never late. – **Neither are mine.** (=My parents are never late either.)*

Short Story Dialogue

– *Max and Ann are getting married next month!*

– ***Are they?** Really? I am quite surprised.*

– ***So am I!** It all happened so fast. They have known each other for such a short time.*

It's crazy, isn't it?

– ***Yes, it is!** And are they inviting everyone to their wedding?*

– ***No, they aren't.** I think that they are planning on having a small wedding.*

– ***Are they?** Well, maybe it's for the better. I am not a fan of big weddings.*

– ***Nor am I.***

Independent Practice - Helping verb - to be

1) Decide whether the underlined verb *to be* is an auxiliary or a main verb in the following sentences.

- a. (auxiliary verb/main verb) I've never been to Paris.
- b. (auxiliary verb/main verb) My friends were enjoying the hike, but I wasn't.
- c. (auxiliary verb/main verb) I'm trying to concentrate. Don't bother me with your questions!
- d. (auxiliary verb/main verb) Jenny was extremely upset after getting her exam results.

2) Give short answers using the auxiliary verb *to be*.

a. I wasn't upset to find out that our classes were cancelled.	.....
b. Rachel's Thanksgiving trifle with bananas and beef was a disaster.	.....
c. Do you know that Liz is going to participate in a beauty pageant?	.....
d. Are you trying to say that I am wrong?	.....
e. We are happy to be here with you today!	.....
f. I'm not very interested in joining the club.	.....

Independent Practice: Answers - Helping verb - to be

1) Decide whether the underlined verb *to be* is an auxiliary or a main verb in the following sentences.

- a. (auxiliary verb/**main verb**) I've never been to Paris.
- b. (**auxiliary verb**/main verb) My friends were enjoying the hike, but I wasn't.
- c. (**auxiliary verb**/main verb) I'm trying to concentrate. Don't bother me with your questions!
- d. (auxiliary verb/**main verb**) Jenny was extremely upset after getting her exam results.

2) Give short answers using the auxiliary verb *to be*. Sample Answers:

- a. Neither was I./Nor was I.
- b. Yes, it was./No, it wasn't. Joey liked it.
- c. Is she? Really?
- d. Yes, I am./No, I'm not.
- e. So am I!
- f. Neither am I./Nor am I.

Helping verbs – to do – to have

Introduction

1) We use auxiliary verbs to form questions, negative sentences, compound tenses (the perfect tense or the continuous tense), or the passive voice. Auxiliary verbs are also known as *helping verbs*. They are used together with a main verb to give grammatical information and additional meaning to a sentence.

Although there are 23 helping verbs in English, which include modal verbs (can, must etc.), the basic auxiliary verbs are *to be*, *to do*, *to have*.

2) The verbs *to do* and *to have* can be used as auxiliary and main verbs.

*My sister **does** her own taxes. (main verb)*

***Do** you believe in ghosts? (auxiliary verb; helps to form a question in the present simple tense)*

*Ann **has** a well-paying job. (main verb; the verb to have is used in the present simple tense in American English)*

*Ann **has got** a well-paying job. (auxiliary verb; the verb to have is used in the present perfect tense in British English)*

Note that the verbs *to do* and *to have* are irregular.

Base form	do	have
Present form	do/does	have/has
Past form	did	had
Present Participle/Gerund	doing	having
Past Participle	done	had

You can use the auxiliary verbs *to do* and *to have*:

a) when you don't want to repeat something.

*Everyone likes going to the movies, but I **don't**. (=I don't like going to the movies.)*

b) to deny something or say that it is not true.

*Have you ever been abroad? – No, I **haven't**. (=I haven't been abroad.)*

c) to show interest in what somebody has said, or to show surprise.

*They have been married for 50 years. – **Have they?** That's unbelievable!*

d) with *so* (when you agree) and *neither/nor* (when you disagree). In this case, an auxiliary verb goes before the subject.

*She has helped me a lot. – **So have I!** (=I have helped you too.)*

*I don't want to go to work. – **Neither do I.** (=I don't want to go to work either.)*

Short Story Dialogue

– ***Have you heard anything from Sam?***

– ***No, I haven't. I've tried calling him, but he doesn't pick up the phone.***

– ***So have I!** Well, maybe he is busy with something right now.*

– *Actually, I think that **Ann has told me** something about Sam trying to find a new job, so he might be stressed out now.*

– ***Does she even know him** that well?*

– ***Yes, she does.** They met at my birthday party last year, and **they have become friends** at once.*

– ***Have they?** I've never seen them hanging out together. Anyway, I hope that he's doing alright.*

Independent Practice - Helping verbs – to do – to have

1) Decide whether the underlined verbs *to do* and *to have* are auxiliary or main verbs in the following sentences.

- a. (auxiliary verb/main verb) I've never been to Finland.
- b. (auxiliary verb/main verb) She has a big collection of shoes.
- c. (auxiliary verb/main verb) I can't believe they have forgotten about your birthday!
- d. (auxiliary verb/main verb) Peter hasn't got any motivation lately.

2) Give short answers using the auxiliary verbs *to do* and *to have*.

a. I don't think they will win this game.	.....
b. My friend has never spent Christmas together with his family.	.....
c. Kate likes shopping at weekends.	.....
d. Have you heard the latest news?	.....
e. I've never seen anything like that!	.....
f. Do you believe in fate?	.....

Independent Practice: Answers - Helping verbs – to do – to have

1) Decide whether the underlined verbs *to do* and *to have* are auxiliary or main verbs in the following sentences.

- a. (**auxiliary verb**/main verb) I've never been to Finland.
- b. (auxiliary verb/**main verb**) She has a big collection of shoes.
- c. (**auxiliary verb**/main verb) I can't believe they have forgotten about your birthday!
- d. (**auxiliary verb**/main verb) Peter hasn't got any motivation lately.

2) Give short answers using the auxiliary verbs *to do* and *to have*. Sample Answers:

- a. Neither do I./Nor do I.
- b. Has he?
- c. So do I.
- d. Yes, I have./No, I haven't.
- e. Neither have I!/Nor have I!
- f. Yes, I do./No, I don't.

Modal verbs – can/could

Introduction

1) We use modal verbs to show if we believe something is certain, probable or possible (or not). We also use modals to ask permission, make requests and offers etc.

Modal verbs fall into the category of auxiliary verbs (also known as *helping verbs*). It means that they are used together with a main verb to give grammatical information and additional meaning to a sentence.

2) The modal verb *can* has only two forms: *can* (present) and *could* (past). We use the modal verb *can* and *the base form of the verb* to form sentences. Questions are formed by inverting the subject and *can*. Negatives are formed with *not*. Contracted forms are used (*can't/couldn't*).

We can use the modal:

can	could
a) to talk about general abilities or skills in the present. <i>I can cook and bake.</i>	a) to talk about general abilities or skills in the past. <i>I could paint beautifully as a kid.</i>
b) to make general statements about what is possible/impossible (not allowed). <i>It can be very hot in summer. (=Sometimes it is very hot in summer.) You can't smoke here.</i>	b) to make general statements about what was possible/impossible (not allowed). <i>It could be very hot in summer. (=Sometimes it was very hot in summer.) He couldn't do it! He is such a sweet guy.</i>
c) to ask for permission (informal). <i>Can I borrow your pencil, please?</i>	c) to ask for permission (formal) <i>Could I use your phone, please?</i>
d) to request something (informal) <i>Can you help me, please?</i>	d) to request something (formal) <i>Could you show me the way, please?</i>
e) to make offers. <i>Can I carry these bags for you?</i>	e) to make suggestions. <i>We could go to the bar if you want.</i>

Short Story Dialogue

- *Jamie, could you help me, please?*
- *Yeah, of course!*
- ***Could you be the one to cook dinner today?***
- *Well, I can cook, but I'm not the best at it. Are you sure you want my help?*
- *Yes, I am sure that you can do it. You can simply follow the recipe, I'll leave the cooking book on the table.*
- ***That I can do! You can count on me.***

Independent Practice - Modal verbs – can/could

1) Fill in the gaps with *can/can't* or *could/couldn't*.

- a. Liz loves her brother to death, but she understand why he behaves like that sometimes.
- b. My grandmother traveled a lot. She speak 4 languages.
- c. I eat 4 brownies in 1 minute.
- d. I looked everywhere for the book, but I find it.

2) React to the situations. Form sentences using *can* or *could*.

a. Your friend is struggling with his project. Offer your help.	..... .....
b. You are having a family dinner. Ask your aunt's husband William to pass the salt.	..... .....
c. You are 8 y.o. and you want to go to your friend's place. Ask your mom's permission.	..... .....

3) Answer the questions.

a. Can you play any musical instrument?	..... .....
b. Could you become a superhero?	..... .....
c. Can you learn 20 new English words a day?	..... .....

Independent Practice: Answers - Modal verbs – can/could

1) Fill in the gaps with *can/can't* or *could/couldn't*.

- a. Liz loves her brother to death, but she **can't** understand why he behaves like that sometimes.
- b. My grandmother traveled a lot. She **could** speak 4 languages.
- c. I **can** eat 4 brownies in 1 minute.
- d. I looked everywhere for the book, but I **couldn't** find it.

2) React to the situations. Form sentences using *can* or *could*.

- a. I can help you with your project.
- b. William, could you pass the salt, please?
- c. Mom, can I go to my friend's place, please?

3) Answer the questions. Sample Answers:

- a. Yes, I can play the guitar.
- b. No, I couldn't become a superhero because I am too anxious.
- c. Yes, I can learn 20 new English words a day.

Modal verbs – will/would

Introduction

1) We use modal verbs to show if we believe something is certain, probable or possible (or not). We also use modals to ask permission, make requests and offers etc.

Modal verbs fall into the category of auxiliary verbs (also known as *helping verbs*). It means that they are used together with a main verb to give grammatical information and additional meaning to a sentence.

2) We normally use *will* to speak about the future, though it is also classified as a modal verb. We use the modal verb *will* and *the base form of the verb* to form sentences. Questions are formed by inverting the subject and *will*. Negatives are formed with *not*. Contracted forms are used (*won't*).

We can use the modal verb *will*:

a) to express rapid decision.

*Which one? – Hmm, I **will** have the tuna sandwich.*

b) to express thoughts or beliefs about the future.

*I think they **will** remain friends forever.*

c) to make an offer, a promise, or a threat.

*I **will not** disappoint you!*

d) to talk about predictable behaviour.

*He **will** eat chocolate when he feels anxious.*

Note that we use *won't* when someone refuses to do something.

*I tried reassuring him, but he **won't** listen to me.*

We use the modal verb *would* and *the base form of the verb* to form sentences. Questions are formed by inverting the subject and *would*. Negatives are formed with *not*.

We can use the modal verb *would*:

a) as a polite invitation or to offer.

***Would** you like to spend this evening together with me?*

b) to describe a prediction.

*It **would** be nice to be a little bit funnier.*

c) not to sound impolite when disagreeing with someone.

*I **wouldn't** put it like that.*

d) to describe past habits.

*She **would** fall asleep when she was on a train.*

Note that we use *wouldn't* when someone refused to do something.

*James said that he **wouldn't** help us at all.*

Short Story Dialogue

– ***Would you like to go to the movies tonight?***

– *I certainly would!*

– ***I think you'll like this one. You like comedies, right?***

– *That's right. When I was a kid I would watch comedies from the 90s. It would be cool to see some older movies on a big screen.*

– *Yeah, that would be cool. Shall we go now though?*

– ***I'll make a quick call and we can go then, OK?***

– *Yes, sure. Take your time.*

Independent Practice – will/would

1) Fill in the gaps with *will* or *would*.

- a. I call you later, sorry.
- b. Chris hang up whenever I brought up that issue.
- c. If I had a chance, I become an astronaut.
- d. We be very grateful if you could send these prints immediately.

2) Match the sentences.

a. I don't mind if you stay.	1. You can't ignore my question.
b. Will you say anything?	2. It would be amazing actually.
c. Will he ever grow up?	3. He is so immature.

3) Answer the questions.

a. What will you do tomorrow?	..... .....
b. Do you think that you will win the lottery one day?	..... .....
c. What would you do if you were a mayor of your city?	..... .....

Independent Practice: Answers – will/would

1) Fill in the gaps with *will* or *would*.

- a. I **will** call you later, sorry.
- b. Chris **would** hang up whenever I brought up that issue.
- c. If I had a chance, I **would** become an astronaut.
- d. We **would** be very grateful if you could send these prints immediately.

2) Match the sentences.

a. I don't mind if you stay.	2. It would be amazing actually.
b. Will you say anything?	1. You can't ignore my question.
c. Will he ever grow up?	3. He is so immature.

3) Answer the questions. Sample Answers:

- a. I will stay at home and relax.
- b. No, I don't think that I'll win the lottery one day.
- c. If I were a mayor of my city, I would improve the ecological situation.

Modal verbs – shall/should

Introduction

1) We use modal verbs to show if we believe something is certain, probable or possible (or not). We also use modals to ask permission, make requests and offers etc.

Modal verbs fall into the category of auxiliary verbs (also known as *helping verbs*). It means that they are used together with a main verb to give grammatical information and additional meaning to a sentence.

2) The modal verb *shall* is mostly used in formal speech and some legal documents. We use the modal verb *shall* and *the base form of the verb* to form sentences. Questions are formed by inverting the subject and *shall*. Negatives are formed with *not*.

Nowadays, the most common use of *shall* in everyday English is in questions that serve as offers or suggestions (*Shall I? Shall we?*).

Shall I order some pizza?

Shall we go now? It's getting late.

We use the modal verb *should* and *the base form of the verb* to form sentences. Questions are formed by inverting the subject and *should*. Negatives are formed with *not*.

We can use the modal verb *should*:

a) to give advice, a recommendation, or a suggestion.

*I think you **should** study more.*

b) to express that a situation is likely in the present or in the future (a prediction).

*Kelly **should** be at home by now. You can stop by.*

*I ordered some t-shirts 10 days ago. They **should** come in mail this week.*

c) to express an obligation (not as strong as *must*). It is used instead of *must* to make rules, orders or instructions sound more polite.

*You **should** never lie to your parents.*

d) to say that something was expected in the past but didn't happen (in this case, use *should + have + past participle*).

*I **should have studied** more but I was too lazy.*

Short Story Dialogue

– **Shall we go to this new bar?**

– *Yeah, that doesn't sound too bad.*

– **Some band should perform there tonight.**

– *Oh, sounds interesting. **Shall we go now?** I think it might get a bit crowded on a Friday night.*

– **Yeah, we should go now.** I don't want to be somewhere in the back the whole night.

– **Shall I get a taxi?**

– *No, it's fine. It's just a 15 minute walk from us.*

Independent Practice - Modal verbs – shall/should

1) Fill in the gaps with *shall* or *should*.

- a. We go now or we'll miss our train.
- b. I give him a call? He seemed nice.
- c. You pay more attention to your health.
- d. No one disrespect another person's opinion.

2) Match the sentences.

a. Shall I call in sick?	1. I'm not feeling well.
b. You should go to the doctor.	2. The weather is amazing.
c. Shall we go to the park?	3. It might be something serious.

3) Answer the questions.

a. What should we do in case of fire?	..... .....
b. What shouldn't people do when they are having an argument?	..... .....
c. What should people do to become happy?	..... .....

Independent Practice: Answers - Modal verbs – shall/should

1) Fill in the gaps with *shall* or *should*.

- a. We **should** go now or we'll miss our train.
- b. **Shall** I give him a call? He seemed nice.
- c. You **should** pay more attention to your health.
- d. No one **should** disrespect another person's opinion.

2) Match the sentences.

a. Shall I call in sick?	1. I'm not feeling well.
b. You should go to the doctor.	3. It might be something serious.
c. Shall we go to the park?	2. The weather is amazing.

3) Answer the questions. Sample Answers:

- a. We should call 911.
- b. They shouldn't call each other names.
- c. People should be themselves to become happy.

Modal verbs – must/may/might

Introduction

1) We use modal verbs to show if we believe something is certain, probable or possible (or not). We also use modals to ask permission, make requests and offers etc.

Modal verbs fall into the category of auxiliary verbs (also known as *helping verbs*). It means that they are used together with a main verb to give grammatical information and additional meaning to a sentence.

2) We use the modal verb *must* and *the base form of the verb* to form sentences. Questions are formed by inverting the subject and *must*. Negatives are formed with *not*. Contracted forms are used (*mustn't*).

We can use the modal verb *must*:

a) to express obligation, duty, or prohibition (this also refers to laws and regulations).

*You **must** wear a seatbelt at all times.*

*You **mustn't** use your smartphone while driving.*

b) to emphasize the necessity of something.

*People **must** drink a lot of water during the day.*

c) to express our certainty in something being true.

*Look! There are puddles everywhere. **It must have rained.***

*You are still working? **You must be tired!***

d) to give a strong recommendation.

*You **must** listen to this song, it's so catchy!*

We use the modal verb *may* and *the base form of the verb* to form sentences. Questions are formed by inverting the subject and *may*. Negatives are formed with *not*.

We can use the modal verb *may*:

a) to give permission or prohibit something.

*If you have finished the test, you **may** leave the room.*

*You **may not** park here.*

b) to ask for permission (more polite than *can*).

***May** I use your bathroom, please?*

c) to express wishes.

***May** you both live happily!*

d) in academic (or scientific) language to refer to things that typically happen in certain situations.

*Drivers **may** feel tired after driving for 3 hours straight.*

Note that we usually use the modal verbs *may* and *might* without a significant difference in meaning when expressing possibility. However, *might* often implies a smaller chance of something happening.

*I **might** go to the movies tonight. I'm not sure.*

Short Story Dialogue

- *Do you know why I've been feeling so sick lately?*
- *I'm not a doctor. **You must set an appointment with one.***
- *No, I'm fine. I **must be tired from working 12 hours a day.***
- ***It may be, but you must go to the doctor anyway!***
- *I'll try to sleep more.*
- ***You know that it might get worse, right?** Should I come along?*
- *That would be great actually!*

Independent Practice - Modal verbs – must/may/might

1) Fill in the gaps with *must* or *may*.

- a. The lights are out. They have gone out.
- b. I borrow your pen, please?
- c. You go once you fill out the papers.
- d. We go now. Otherwise we'll miss our flight.

2) Match the sentences.

a. You may not cross the street here.	1. I might go to a dinner party next week.
b. Will you be at home at 8?	2. The traffic is crazy.
c. May I use borrow your red dress?	3. I might stop by.

3) React to the situations. Form sentences using *must* or *might*.

a. Your friend is trying to park his car. Tell him that there is a sign "No Parking" nearby.	..... .....
b. Your sister is baking a cake. Tell her to follow the recipe.	..... .....
c. You want to go to the movies with your friend but you're not sure if it is still on.	..... .....

Independent Practice: Answers - Modal verbs – must/may/might

1) Fill in the gaps with *must* or *may*.

- a. The lights are out. They **must** have gone out.
- b. **May** I borrow your pen, please?
- c. You **may** go once you fill out the papers.
- d. We **must** go now. Otherwise we'll miss our flight.

2) Match the sentences.

a. You may not cross the street here.	2. The traffic is crazy.
b. Will you be at home at 8?	3. I might stop by.
c. May I use borrow your red dress?	1. I might go to a dinner party next week.

3) React to the situations. Form sentences using *must* or *might*.

- a. You mustn't park here.
- b. You must follow the recipe.
- c. We might go to the movies.