

Auxiliaries & Passive and Active Voice

I. Auxiliaries

1. Definition

Auxiliaries, also known as *auxiliary verbs* or *helping verbs*, are a type of *verb* that is used alongside the *main verb* in a sentence to provide additional information about the **tense**, **mood**, **aspect**, or **voice of the main verb**. Auxiliaries help convey the meaning more precisely by indicating the time of the action, the likelihood or necessity of the action, and other related aspects. They play a crucial role in constructing grammatically correct and meaningful sentences.

Common examples of auxiliary verbs include “**be**,” “**do**,” and “**have**.” These auxiliaries are often used in combination with the main verb to form different *tenses*, *questions*, *negatives*, and *other grammatical constructions*.

2. Auxiliary “To be”

Auxiliary “*to be*” has several usages:

A. To form continuous tenses (In progressive):

Example: They are playing football. (In this sentence, “**are**” **indicates** the present continuous tense, **showing** an **ongoing action**).

B. As a linking verb:

Example: She is a teacher. (Here, “**is**” connects the subject “**She**” with the predicate “**a teacher**” and **describes her state of being**).

C. In passive voice constructions:

Example: The book was read by him. (Here, “**was**” is used to form **the passive voice**, indicating that the book received the action of being read).

D. To denote the existence of something:

Example: There is a beautiful garden behind the house. (In this case, “**is**” **signifies the existence** of a beautiful garden behind the house).

E. In the perfect tenses:

Example: I have been to Paris. (In this sentence, “*have been*” is in the present perfect tense, **indicating an action that started in the past and has relevance to the present**).

F. As an auxiliary verb to form continuous and passive verb forms:

Example: They are being interviewed. (Here, “*are*” is the auxiliary verb used with “*being*” to form **the present continuous passive**).

Example: The cake was being baked. (In this sentence, “*was*” is the auxiliary verb used with “*being*” to form **the past continuous passive**).

G. To give an information:

Example: The exam is scheduled for next week at 10:30 AM. (Here, “*is*” is the auxiliary verb used to **give information** about when the exam is going to take place).

H. To give (age, height, weight, price):

Example: Natalie is twenty-five years old, and she is six feet tall. (Here, “*is*” in the two clauses is used to **give details** about Natalie’s *age* and *height*).

I. To ask questions or in tag questions:

Example (tag question): You are coming to the party, aren't you? (Here, “*are*” is used in the tag question **to seek confirmation** whether you are coming to the party or no).

Example (ask question): Is this the right address for the event? (In here, “*is*” is used at the beginning of the sentence **to ask a question about the address**).

J. In idiomatic expressions:

Example: Don't be a stranger. (In this case, “*be*” is part of **an idiomatic expression**, meaning **to stay in touch or not to become distant**).

K. With adjectives or adverbs to describe a state or condition:

Example (with an adjective): The weather is beautiful. (In this case, “*is*” connects the subject “The weather” with the adjective “beautiful” **to describe its state**).

Example (with an adverb): The situation is really complex. (Here, “*is*” connects the subject “The situation” with the adverb “really” **to describe the degree of complexity**).

L. In commands or imperatives:

Example: Be quiet. (In imperative sentences, “be” is used to give a **command** or **instruction**).

M. To indicate a future event, plans or arrangement:

Example: The meeting is to be held tomorrow. (Here, “**is**” is used **to indicate a future event or arrangement**).

Note:

- The auxiliary “to be” can be used as an ordinary verb.

For example: Gold **is** a metal. => In here the auxiliary to be is used as an ordinary verb.

- As well as it can be used as a helping verb.

For example: The children **are** playing in the yard. => In here the auxiliary to be is used as a helping verb to support the main verb of the sentence “**to play**” in continuous tense.

- Note that to be can be used as follows: **To be +infinitive.**

2.1.The form of Auxiliary “To be”

In simple tenses:

Pronoun	Present Tense	Past Tense	Future Tense
I	Am/'m	Was	Will Be
You	Are	Were	Will Be
He/She/It	Is	Was	Will Be
We	Are	Were	Will Be
You	Are	Were	Will Be
They	Are	Were	Will Be

In negative and interrogative form with simple tenses:

Pronoun	Present Negative Form	Past Negative Form	Future Negative Form
I	Am not/'m not	Was not/Wasn't	Will not be/Won't be
You	Are not/Aren't	Were not/Weren't	Will not be/Won't be
He/She/It	Is not/isn't	Was not/Wasn't	Will not be/Won't be
We	Are not/Aren't	Were not/Weren't	Will not be/Won't be
You	Are not/Aren't	Were not/Weren't	Will not be/Won't be
They	Are not/Aren't	Were not/Weren't	Will not be/Won't be

Present Interrogative Form	Past Interrogative Form	Future Interrogative Form
Am I ?	Was I ?	Will I be?
Are you ?	Were you ?	Will you be?
Is he/she/it ?	Was he/she/it ?	Will he/she/it be?
Are we ?	Were we ?	Will we be?
Are you ?	Were you ?	Will you be?
Are they ?	Were they ?	Will they be?

- These forms cover the basic usage of the auxiliary verb “to be” in the simple tenses, negative forms, and interrogative forms with different personal pronouns.

3. Auxiliary “To do”

Auxiliary “to do” has several usages:

A. To ask questions:

Example (question in the present tense): Do you live here? (In here, “do” is used **to form a question** in the present simple tense when there is no other auxiliary verb in the statement).

Example (question in the past tense): Did you read this book? (In here, “do” is used **to form a question** in the past simple tense when there is no other auxiliary verb in the statement).

B. To form short answers:

Example: Yes I do or yes I did. (In here, “do” is used to **form a short answer for the previous questions** in the appropriate tense using either ‘yes or no’ to reply to a question).

C. To put emphasis on the answer:

Example: I do enjoy a good movie now and then. (In here, “do” is used **for emphasis**, particularly when stressing on a particular point in a sentence).

D. In Emphatic Statements:

Example: I do appreciate your help. (In this example: “do” is used in **emphatic statements to emphasize** the verb).

E. As a Placeholder:

Example: I like coffee, and he does too. (In here, “do” is used as a placeholder when the **main verb is understood or implied**).

3.1.The form of Auxiliary “To do”

In simple tenses:

Pronoun	Present Tense	Past Tense	Future Tense
I/You	Do	Did	Will Do
He/She/It	Does		
We/You/They	Do		

In negative and interrogative form with simple tenses:

Pronoun	Present Negative Form	Past Negative Form	Future Negative Form
I/ You	Do not/ Don't	Did not/ Didn't	Will not do/Won't do
He/She/It	Does not/ Doesn't		
We/ You/ They	Do not/ Don't		

Present Interrogative Form	Past Interrogative Form	Future Interrogative Form
Do I ?	Did I ?	Will I do?
Do you ?	Did you ?	Will you do?
Does he/she/it ?	Did he/she/it ?	Will he/she/it do?
Do we ?	Did we ?	Will we do?
Do you ?	Did you ?	Will you do?
Do they ?	Did they ?	Will they do?

- These forms cover the basic usage of the auxiliary verb “to do” in the simple tenses, negative forms, and interrogative forms with different personal pronouns.

4. Auxiliary “*To have*”

Auxiliary “to have” has several usages:

A. *To form perfect tenses (present perfect, past perfect....):*

Examples (present perfect):

- I have seen that movie before.
- She has visited Paris many times.

(In this sentence, “*have*” is used as an auxiliary verb **to indicate an action that started in the past and is still relevant to the present**).

Examples (past perfect):

- They had already finished their homework when I arrived.
- He had studied Spanish for years before moving to Spain.

(In this sentence, “*had*” is used **to indicate an action that occurred before another action in the past**).

B. *To ask questions:*

Example: Have you ever tried hiking? (In this sentence, the auxiliary “*have*” is used to **ask a question about trying hiking before**).

C. *Auxiliary in perfect continuous tenses:*

Examples (perfect continuous tenses):

- I have been working on this project for days.
- She had been waiting for the bus when it started raining.

(In perfect continuous tenses, “*have*” is combined with the present participle (-ing form of the verb) to **express an ongoing action that started in the past and is still ongoing or has just been completed**).

D. Causative Have:

Examples (of causative have):

- I had my car repaired yesterday.
- She has her hair done at the salon every month.

(In the causative form, “have” is used **to indicate that someone caused something to be done for them**. Which means that “have” is used to express the idea that the subject arranged or caused someone else to perform an action on their behalf).

E. To show Possession:

Examples (of possession):

- I have a new phone.
- She has two brothers.

(So “have” here is used **to indicate possession or ownership i.e.: something that belongs to you**).

F. Expressions:

Examples:

- I have to go to the store.
- She had better finish her homework.

(In order to convey necessity, obligation, or recommendations, **we tend to use “have” in our speech or writing**).

G. Used in Certain Verb Phrases:

Examples (verb phrases):

- They have to finish the project by Friday.
- She has to make an important decision.

(It is very often that we use “have” **in conjunction with other verbs to form verb phrases that convey necessity, obligation, or duty**).

Note:

- The auxiliary “to have” can be used as an ordinary verb.

For example: She *had* a car accident yesterday. => In here the auxiliary to have is used as an ordinary verb (in its past form).

- The Verb “to have” in the interrogative form varies between American and British English:

In American English we use the auxiliary verbs “*do*” and “*does*” because the main verb is “*have*”.

Examples:

- **Do you have a car?**
- **Does she have a car?**

However, In British English we do not use the auxiliary verbs “*do*” or “*does*”. Instead, the main verb is “*got*”, and “*have*” is the auxiliary verb.

Examples:

- **Have you got a car?**
- **Has she got a car?**

4.1.The form of Auxiliary “To have”

In simple tenses:

Pronoun	Present Tense	Past Tense	Future Tense
I/You	Have	Had	Will Have
He/She/It	Has		
We/You/They	Have		

In negative and interrogative form with simple tenses:

Pronoun	Present Negative Form	Past Negative Form	Future Negative Form
I/ You	Have not/ Haven't	Had not/ Hadn't	Will not have/Won't have
He/She/It	Has not/ Hasn't		
We/ You/ They	Have not/ Haven't		

Present Interrogative Form	Past Interrogative Form	Future Interrogative Form
Have I ?	Had I ?	Will I have?
Have you ?	Had you ?	Will you have?
Has he/she/it ?	Had he/she/it ?	Will he/she/it have?
Have we ?	Had we ?	Will we have?
Have you ?	Had you ?	Will you have?
Have they ?	Had they ?	Will they have?

- These forms cover the basic usage of the auxiliary verb “to have” in the simple tenses, negative forms, and interrogative forms with different personal pronouns.