

Auxiliary verbs

Auxiliary verbs, including modal auxiliaries, are always followed by another auxiliary or a main verb. The only exception is BE, which can be the only verb in the sentence:

I **am** at the cinema, there **are** a lot of people here today.

Each auxiliary verb is followed by a specific form of the verb: infinitive (V_{inf}), infinitive with TO (V_{to+inf}), gerund (V_{-ing}), or past participle (V_{-en}):

Auxiliary verb	Forms	Examples
HAVE + V _{-en} (perfect tenses)	have has had having	I have seen that film very recently. The dog has broken the remote control. I had forgotten my book at school. Having said that, we need to make a decision.
DO + V _{inf} (present & past simple)	do does did	Do you want to dance? Does he drive ? I didn't say that.
WILL + V _{inf} (future)	will	Will you help me with these boxes, please?
WOULD + V _{inf} (conditional)	would	Would you explain that again, please?
Modals ₁ + V _{inf}	can could must may might will would shall should had better need ¹	I can play the guitar. She could swim when she was three years old. We must think about it. It may snow tonight. This might be useful. I will tell you tomorrow. I would ask someone for help. Where shall we go now? You should buy a new coat. I had better go , it's getting late. You needn't say anything.

Modals₂ + V_{to+inf}	have to ought to be able to need ² to	I have to finish these reports for tomorrow. You ought to see the baby elephant! Will you be able to come at six? You don't need to say anything.
BE + V_{-ing} (continuous tenses)	am is are was were being been	I am writing an example. He is looking out of the window. They are playing the flute. She was waiting for the bus. We were watching a film. You are being silly, aren't you? They have been working all evening.
BE + V_{-en} (passive voice)	am is are was were being been	I am confused by those symbols. It is considered very dangerous. They are broken down by enzymes. The news was forgotten very quickly. We were given detailed instructions. It is being analysed . It has been forbidden because of health risks.
BE GOING + V_{to+inf}	be going to	We are going to have dinner at a restaurant.

^{1,2} "Need" can work as an auxiliary (needn't) or as a main verb (don't need to).

a) Complete this summary with these verb forms:

an infinitive

an infinitive

a past participle (V_{-en})

an infinitive

a gerund (V_{-ing})

a past participle (V_{-en})

After **be / is / was...** we use _____ or _____.

After **do / does / did** we use _____.

After **have / has / had** we use _____.

After **can / must / have to...** we use _____.

After **be going to...** we use _____.

b) Choose the correct form of each verb:

1.- They should _____ me they _____
_____. If I _____ yesterday,
I _____ a chocolate cake. Their kids
_____ it!

2.- I _____ about what _____
yesterday, and I _____ to her for
what I _____. I really _____
her that her problems _____ none of my business. She
_____ I _____ a terribly
rude person.

3.- The volcano _____ lava for over
two months now, and it _____ any signs of
_____ near the end of its eruption yet. Thousands of people
_____ because their
homes _____ by the lava, and they
_____ when the government's help _____
_____ among them. Meanwhile, volunteers who
_____ to the island _____
to _____ the ash from the rooftops so that they _____
_____ under its weight.

4.- My English teacher _____ to school yesterday. We _____ happy because we _____ we _____ a free period, but then the teacher on duty _____ and _____ us that he _____ some photocopies with exercises for us. In the end we _____ the whole period _____. Today we _____ a lesson, but I hope that he _____ tomorrow. His lessons _____ usually less boring!

5.- I _____ about my problems to learn new vocabulary, and I _____ the conclusion that I _____ a different technique. _____ lists of vocabulary just _____. I _____ a vocabulary book. This is how it _____: you _____ some new words, you _____ or _____ a sentence with each of them, and you _____ those sentences every day for five or ten minutes. If you _____ them, you _____ able _____ translation, too. You _____ the translations on a separate page. I hope it _____ !