

Auxiliary verbs

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a Why they think this?
b Why do they think this?
- 2 a I am not agree with this idea.
b I do not agree with this idea.

Do, be and have are called auxiliary verbs. This means that they help to change the main verb.

Do is used with the infinitive to make negatives or questions:

I don't agree. (not ~~I am not agree.~~) *Do you agree?* (not ~~Are you agree?~~)

Do can be used with other question words: *Why do you agree?* (not ~~Why you agree?~~)

Be is used with *-ing* verb forms to make the continuous tenses:

I am studying English in Cambridge. (not ~~I studying English~~)

(*be* is also used with the past participle to make the passive – see unit 19)

Have is used with the past participle of the verb to make the perfect tenses:

I have been here for three months. (not ~~I am been here~~ or ~~I been here~~)

The auxiliary verb must agree with the subject of the verb (see unit 2): *Does your mother drink tea?* (not ~~Do your mother drink tea?~~)

☆ We make questions and negatives without *do* if another auxiliary verb is used:

Are you studying here? (not ~~Do you are studying here?~~) (auxiliary verb *be*)

2 Correct the mistakes below.



We tennis. Do you?

3 Underline the correct auxiliary verb in each sentence. Sometimes no auxiliary is needed.

- 1 What *do* / *does* your friend like to eat?
- 2 Where *do* / *are* you going?
- 3 I *am* / – totally agree with you.
- 4 What *have* / *did* you done today?
- 5 I *am* / *do* not believe this.
- 6 She *is* / *are* learning the piano.
- 7 I *was* / *have* not seen her for two years.
- 8 They – / *are* went to America for their holiday.