

Week 1: Auxiliary Verbs

Specific objectives: I should be able to:

- 1.define auxiliary verbs;
- 2.explain its types
- 3.state its uses.

An auxiliary verb (abbreviated aux) is a verb that adds functional or grammatical meaning to the clause in which it occurs, so as to express tense, aspect, modality, voice, emphasis, etc. Auxiliary verbs usually accompany an infinitive verb or a participle, which respectively provide the main semantic content of the clause.[1] An example is the verb have in the sentence I have finished my lunch. Here, the auxiliary have helps to express the perfect aspect along with the participle, finished. Some sentences contain a chain of two or more auxiliary verbs. Auxiliary verbs are also called helping verbs, helper verbs, or (verbal) auxiliaries.

Types of Auxiliary Verbs.

The “primary” auxiliary verbs—be, have, and do—are some of the most commonly occurring verbs in English. They are also some of the trickiest to master, because each can also be used as a main verb in a clause, and each is able to conjugate to reflect plurality and tense as a result.

Be and have are used as auxiliaries to conjugate the continuous, perfect, and perfect continuous tenses. Do is used to make main verbs negative or to form interrogative sentences, and it can also be used to add emphasis to a sentence.

We will begin by examining these different conjugations, and then we’ll look more closely at how these verbs function as auxiliaries.

Conjugating be, have, and do

Because be, have, and do are

Be conjugations	Form	Auxiliary example sentence
Be	Base form	you must be joking
Am	(first-person singular present tense);	I am moving to Germany next month
Are	(first-person plural present tense, second-person singular/plural present tense, third-person plural present tense	We are leaving tomorrow morning Are you working later? Where are they going?
is	third-person singular present tense	She is wondering where we are going.
was	first-person singular past tense, third-person singular past tense second-person singular/plural past tense	I was talking to my brother yesterday. It was raining quite hard last night.
Were	first-person plural past tense second-person singular/plural past tense third-person plural past tense	We were looking for a new place to live You were thinking of running away? When were they planning on electing a new president?
Been	past participle	Everyone has been worrying about their jobs.
being	present participle	I could tell that the instructor's patience was being tested by the students.

Have conjugations	Form	Auxiliary example sentence
Have	Base form	I have been to this part of the town before.
has	Third person singular present tense	It has been raining for over an hour now.
Had	Past tense	They had been confident in the project's success.
Having	Present participle	Having worked his whole life, Larry relished the thought of retirement.

Do conjugation	Form	Auxiliary example sentence
Do	base form	Do be careful.
Does	Third person singular present tense	Does he know what he is talking about?
Did	Past tense	We didn't know any better.

Modal auxiliary verbs are used to show a necessity, capability, willingness, or possibility. Unlike most verbs, there is only one form of these verbs. Typically, verb forms change to indicate whether the sentence's structure is singular or plural. Most verbs also indicate whether something happened in the past, present, or future. This is not the case with most modal auxiliary verbs, which makes them simpler to understand and use correctly.

Examples of Modal Auxiliary Verbs

So, now that we understand the purpose of modal auxiliary verbs, let's take a look at some of the common ones you may see in writing. The modal auxiliary verbs include:

Can

Could

May

Might

Must

Ought

Shall

Should

Will

Would

Week 2: Rules of Concord

Specific objectives: I should be able to:

1. define concord;
2. state its rules;
3. exemplify the rules.

Concord in grammar is the agreement of all the components of a sentence. Furthermore, concord could also be defined as the relationship between two grammatical items whereby a certain feature in the form of one of them requires a corresponding feature in the form of the other. The English language has so many rules that would help in the observation of concord.

They are:

1. A singular subject takes a singular verb.

Examples: Dr. Emem attends to her patients every day.

2. A plural subject takes a plural verb.

Example: The teachers are very happy.

3. A plural verb is used when two or more singular subjects are joined with and.

Example: The Chairman and his daughter are good.

2. The doctor and the nurse are in the theatre.

In a situation where two singular subjects are joined with and, but still refer to the same person or thing, the singular verb is used.

Example: Bread and butter is a good combination.

The secretary and typist were absent from the meeting.

My classmate and best friend are getting married next week.

4. When two or more singular subjects are connected by neither nor, either or use a singular verb.

Example: Neither Mercy nor Musa qualifies for the award.

5. A singular subject joined to other subjects by as well as, including, with, together with, along with, in addition to uses the singular verb.

Example: The king together with his chiefs encouraged the rioting boys.

Stylistics, as well as Semantics, is a course in English.

6. The indefinite pronoun ALL usually takes a singular verb in some situations.

Example: All is well.

7. The following indefinite pronoun nobody, anybody, anyone, someone, somebody, no one, none, everybody, one, nobody, each, either or neither is singular, therefore, they take a singular verb.

Examples:

Everybody does what pleases him.

Nobody care for me.

Only one of the contestants is qualified.

Everyone is invited to the party.

Somebody was responsible for the missing bag.

8. Indefinite pronouns like many, several, both and few are ways plural because they refer to more than one. They take the singular verb.

Example: Both were eager to contest.

9. When many, each and every is used at the beginning of a sentence, they take a singular verb.

Each student was asked to present his fee clearance card.

10. Some nouns are plural in nature but projects singular meaning. When nouns of such take the subject position in a sentence, it takes a singular verb.

Examples: Mathematics is a very simple subject.

Measles is a childhood-killing disease.

The new was not a positive one.

Week 3: Clauses

Specific objectives: I should be able to:

1.define clause;

2.state its features;

3.explain its types.

A clause is comprised of a group of words that include a subject and a finite verb. It contains only one subject and one verb. The subject of a clause can be mentioned or hidden, but the verb must be apparent and distinguishable.

A clause is “a group of words containing a subject and predicate and functioning as a member of a complex or compound sentence.

” – Merriam-Webster

Example:

I graduated last year. (One clause sentence)

When I came here, I saw him. (Two clause sentence)

When I came here, I saw him, and he greeted me. (Three clause sentence)

Types of Clauses

Independent Clause

Dependent Clause

Independent Clause

It functions on its own to make a meaningful sentence and looks much like a regular sentence.

In a sentence two independent clauses can be connected by the coordinators: and, but, so, or, nor, for*, yet*.

Example:

He is a wise man.

I like him.

Can you do it?

Do it please. (Subject you is hidden)

I read the whole story.

I want to buy a phone, but I don't have enough money. (Two independent clauses)

He went to London and visited the Lords. (Subject of the second clause is 'he,' so "he visited the Lords" is an independent clause.)

Alex smiles whenever he sees her. (One independent clause)

Dependent Clause

It cannot function on its own because it leaves an idea or thought unfinished. It is also called a subordinate clause. These help the independent clauses complete the sentence. Alone, it cannot form a complete sentence.

The subordinators do the work of connecting the dependent clause to another clause to complete the sentence. In each of the dependent clauses, the first word is a subordinator. Subordinators include relative pronouns, subordinating conjunctions, and noun clause markers.

Example:

When I was dating Daina, I had an accident.

I know the man who stole the watch.

He bought a car which was too expensive.

I know that he cannot do it.

He does not know where he was born.

If you don't eat, I won't go.

He is a very talented player though he is out of form.

Week 4: Noun Clause

Specific objectives: I should be able to:

1.define noun clause;

2.explain its rules;

3.exemplify them.

Noun Clause

Dependent Clauses acting as Nouns in sentences are called Noun Clauses or Nominal Clauses. These often start with “how,” “that,” other WH-words (What, Who, Where, When, Why, Which, Whose and Whom), if, whether etc.

Examples:

I like what I hear.

You need to express that it's crossing a line for you.

He knows how things work around here.

In addition to the above examples, noun clause functions as:

1. Subject of the sentence. Example: that I will get over this problem is certain.
2. Object of the verb. Example: I know that I will pass the examination.
3. Subject complement. Example: the reality is that, things will get better soon.
4. Apposition to a noun. Example: your assumption that men are no longer at ease, has no credit.

Week 5: Adjectival/Relative Clause

Specific objectives: I should be able to:

- 1.define adjectival clause;
- 2.state its introducers;
- 3.exemplify adjectival clause.

Adjective Clause

It is a Dependent Clause that modifies a Noun. Basically, Adjective Clauses have similar qualities as Adjectives that are of modifying Nouns and hence the name, Adjective Clause. These are also called

Relative Clauses and they usually sit right after the Nouns they modify. It is usually introduced by "who", "whom", "which", "whose" and "that."

Examples:

I'm looking for the red book that went missing last week.

Finn is asking for the shoes which used to belong to his dad.

You there, who is sitting quietly at the corner, come here and lead the class out.

Week 6: Adverbial Clause

Specific objectives: I should be able to:

- 1.define adverbial clause;
- 2.state its introducers;
- 3.exemplify adverbial clause.

Adverbial Clause

By definition, these are Dependent Clauses acting as Adverbs. It means that these clauses have the power to modify Verbs, Adjectives and other Adverbs. It is introduced by adverbs, such as "till, when, since, after, although, though, if, even though" etc.

Examples:

Alice did the dishes till her legs gave up.

Tina ran to the point of panting vehemently.

I went through the book at a lightning speed.

Week 7: Synonyms from JAMB.

Week 8: Interpretations.

Week 9: Grammatical structures from selected SSCE passages.

