

Grammar Summary: Auxiliary Verbs and Short Forms

Auxiliary verbs (or "helping verbs") are essential for forming questions, negative sentences, short answers, and special structures like tag questions. The main ones are **to be** (*am, is, are, was, were*), **to do** (*do, does, did*), and **to have** (*have, has, had*). Modals (*can, will, might*) also function as auxiliaries.

1. Questions and Short Answers

When you answer a yes/no question, you always use the auxiliary verb from the question in your response. **You never repeat the main verb.**

Question Type	Short Answer (Affirmative)	Short Answer (Negative)	Example
Do/Does/Did	Yes, I/you/we/they do/did	No, I/you/we/they don't/didn't	<i>Did you finish your homework?</i> → Yes, I did . / No, I didn't .
Be (<i>am, is, are</i>)	Yes, I/you/we/they am/is/are	No, I/you/we/they am not/isn't/aren't	<i>Is that your bag?</i> → Yes, it is . / No, it isn't .
Have (Perfect)	Yes, I/you/we/they have/has	No, I/you/we/they haven't/hasn't	<i>Have they eaten lunch?</i> → Yes, they have . / No, they haven't .
Modals (<i>Can, Will</i>)	Yes, I/you/we/they can/will	No, I/you/we/they can't/won't	<i>Can you swim?</i> → Yes, I can . / No, I can't .

2. Tag Questions

A **tag question** is a small question added to the end of a statement. We use them to check information or encourage the listener to agree.

The key rule is to use the **opposite** auxiliary verb:

- **Positive Statement → Negative Tag**
 - *You are a student, **aren't** you?*
- **Negative Statement → Positive Tag**
 - *She hasn't seen the film, **has** she?*

3. Short Questions to Express Surprise

We use short questions to show interest or surprise, or to ask for clarification. They usually use the same auxiliary verb as the original statement.

Situation	Original Statement	Short Question (Surprise/Interest)
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Simple Present A: I study French at school. B: Oh, **do you**?

Simple Past A: We went to Paris last summer. B: **Did you**? That's great!

Present Perfect A: She's finished the test already. B: **Has she**? I didn't see that!

Modals A: I can speak five languages. B: **Can you**? Wow!

Practice Exercise: Auxiliary Verbs and Short Forms

Part 1: Tag Questions

Complete the sentences with the correct question tag.

1. He lives near the school, _____?
2. You haven't bought the tickets yet, _____?
3. The class starts at nine, _____?
4. She won't be late for the meeting, _____?
5. We're going to the party, _____?

Part 2: Short Answers and Surprise Questions

Complete the dialogue using **short answers** or **short questions to express surprise**.

A: I didn't see you at the concert last night.

B: No, I wasn't feeling well.

A: (1) _____? You sounded fine yesterday.

C: You need to hand in your project by Friday.

D: I already (2) _____. I finished it on Tuesday.

C: (3) _____? I thought you were still working on it.

E: Can you help me move these chairs?

F: (4) _____. They look heavy.

G: My brother has decided to quit his job.

H: (5) _____? What is he going to do next?

I: Are you going to be at the meeting later?

J: Yes, I (6) _____.

Vocabulary

Vocabulary Exercise 1: Matching and Definitions

Match the words and phrases (A-H) with the best definition (1-8).

Words and Phrases	Definitions
A. evening class	1. To receive a certificate or qualification after finishing a course of study at a university.
B. memorise a lot of facts	2. The way that schools, colleges, and universities are organized in a country.
C. education system	3. To focus your thoughts on something and listen carefully.
D. pay attention	4. To study material again before a test to refresh your memory.
E. revise hard for exams	5. To succeed in passing your final courses at secondary school.
F. get good grades	6. A course of study that takes place in the late afternoon or at night.
G. graduate from high school	7. To achieve high marks (A, B, 1, 2) in your tests.
H. get a degree	8. To learn and store many pieces of information in your memory.

Vocabulary Exercise 2: Using Context

Complete the sentences below using one of the vocabulary items from the box. You may need to change the form of the verb (e.g., *get* → *getting* or *got*).

evening class	memorise a lot of facts	education system	pay attention	revise hard for exams
get good grades	stay focused	graduate from high school	get a degree	

1. My sister wants to become a teacher, so she's studying to _____ in history at the local university.
2. If you want to pass this course, you need to _____ and stop looking at your phone during the lecture.
3. The biology test next week requires us to _____ about animals and plants.

4. After my brother finishes his final year, he will _____ next summer and start looking for a job.
5. If you want to _____, you can't just study for five minutes. You have to put in the effort.
6. The government is looking at making changes to the _____ to improve how students learn.
7. I couldn't make it to the daytime lesson, so I signed up for an _____ to learn Spanish.
8. It's difficult to _____ when you are studying in a very noisy environment.
9. She was proud to _____ because she worked so hard all year.