

Helping verbs – to do – to have

Introduction

1) We use auxiliary verbs to form questions, negative sentences, compound tenses (the perfect tense or the continuous tense), or the passive voice. Auxiliary verbs are also known as *helping verbs*. They are used together with a main verb to give grammatical information and additional meaning to a sentence.

Although there are 23 helping verbs in English, which include modal verbs (can, must etc.), the basic auxiliary verbs are *to be, to do, to have*.

2) The verbs *to do* and *to have* can be used as auxiliary and main verbs.

*My sister **does** her own taxes. (main verb)*

***Do** you believe in ghosts? (auxiliary verb; helps to form a question in the present simple tense)*

*Ann **has** a well-paying job. (main verb; the verb to have is used in the present simple tense in American English)*

*Ann **has got** a well-paying job. (auxiliary verb; the verb to have is used in the present perfect tense in British English)*

Note that the verbs *to do* and *to have* are irregular.

Base form	do	have
Present form	do/does	have/has
Past form	did	had
Present Participle/Gerund	doing	having
Past Participle	done	had

You can use the auxiliary verbs *to do* and *to have*:

a) when you don't want to repeat something.

*Everyone likes going to the movies, but I **don't**. (=I don't like going to the movies.)*

b) to deny something or say that it is not true.

*Have you ever been abroad? – No, I **haven't**. (=I haven't been abroad.)*

c) to show interest in what somebody has said, or to show surprise.

*They have been married for 50 years. – **Have they?** That's unbelievable!*

d) with *so* (when you agree) and *neither/nor* (when you disagree). In this case, an auxiliary verb goes before the subject.

*She has helped me a lot. – **So have I!** (=I have helped you too.)*

*I don't want to go to work. – **Neither do I.** (=I don't want to go to work either.)*

Short Story Dialogue

– ***Have you heard anything from Sam?***

– ***No, I haven't. I've tried calling him, but he doesn't pick up the phone.***

– ***So have I!** Well, maybe he is busy with something right now.*

– *Actually, I think that **Ann has told me** something about Sam trying to find a new job, so he might be stressed out now.*

– ***Does she even know him** that well?*

– ***Yes, she does.** They met at my birthday party last year, and **they have become friends** at once.*

– ***Have they?** I've never seen them hanging out together. Anyway, I hope that he's doing alright.*

Independent Practice - Helping verbs – to do – to have

1) Decide whether the underlined verbs *to do* and *to have* are auxiliary or main verbs in the following sentences.

- a. (auxiliary verb/main verb) I've never been to Finland.
- b. (auxiliary verb/main verb) She has a big collection of shoes.
- c. (auxiliary verb/main verb) I can't believe they have forgotten about your birthday!
- d. (auxiliary verb/main verb) Peter hasn't got any motivation lately.

2) Give short answers using the auxiliary verbs *to do* and *to have*.

a. I don't think they will win this game.
b. My friend has never spent Christmas together with his family.
c. Kate likes shopping at weekends.
d. Have you heard the latest news?
e. I've never seen anything like that!
f. Do you believe in fate?

Independent Practice: Answers - Helping verbs – to do – to have

1) Decide whether the underlined verbs *to do* and *to have* are auxiliary or main verbs in the following sentences.

- a. (**auxiliary verb**/main verb) I've never been to Finland.
- b. (auxiliary verb/**main verb**) She has a big collection of shoes.
- c. (**auxiliary verb**/main verb) I can't believe they have forgotten about your birthday!
- d. (**auxiliary verb**/main verb) Peter hasn't got any motivation lately.

2) Give short answers using the auxiliary verbs *to do* and *to have*. Sample Answers:

- a. Neither do I./Nor do I.
- b. Has he?
- c. So do I.
- d. Yes, I have./No, I haven't.
- e. Neither have I!/Nor have I!
- f. Yes, I do./No, I don't.