

Auxiliary Verbs

Definitions:

- “Auxiliary Verb” = a verb that adjusts the meaning of a main verb in order to indicate verb tense; also called “helper verb”
 - I am going <-- “am” = auxiliary verb to indicate present progressive tense
 - We will arrive <-- “will” = auxiliary verb to indicate the future tense
- “Helper verb” = another name for an auxiliary verb
- Modal verbs = indicate possibility (can, could, might, should)
- “Verb tense” = verb form or combination to indicate past, present and future forms of a verb

Verb Tenses

	Present	Past	Future
Simple	<i>I play He plays They play</i>	<i>I played He played They played</i>	<i>I will play He will play They will play</i>
Continuous	<i>I am playing She is playing They are playing</i>	<i>I was playing She was playing They were playing</i>	<i>I will be playing She will be playing They will be playing</i>
Perfect	<i>I have played He has played They have played</i>	<i>I have played He had played They had played</i>	<i>I will have played He will have played They will have played</i>
The auxiliary verbs indicate tense <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has/have indicates perfect tense • will = future 			
Other Auxiliary Verbs: modals (indicate possibility or “moods”)			
Model Verb	Present	Perfect (indicates conditional past)	Future
can	<i>I can play</i>		Note that the future sense of possibility is expressed with “be able to”. Thus: <i>I will be able to play She may be able to play We might be able to play They will be able to play</i>
could	<i>She could play (may indicate a past event)</i>	<i>She could have played</i>	
may	<i>We may plan</i>	<i>We may have played</i>	
might	<i>They might play</i>	<i>They might have played</i>	
must	<i>He must play</i>	<i>He must have played</i>	
should	<i>She should play</i>	<i>She should have played</i>	<i>She should play (indicates that she is not playing not but “should” in the future)</i>
will			<i>We will play We will have played</i>
would	<i>He would play</i>	<i>He would have played</i>	
Negation: “not” and “did not”			
	<i>I will not play He cannot play We must not play We should not play</i>	<i>We did not play They could not have played She should not have played</i>	<i>We will not play He should not play They will not be able to play</i>

Subject-Verb Matching: *has/have*

Insert the correct auxiliary verb *has* or *have* to match the subject:

The man _____ played tennis for ten years.

She _____ never been to Spain.

After my last exam I will _____ graduated.

They should _____ been going.

Use
“*have*” or “*has*”

Auxiliary & Modal Verb Practice

1. Using auxiliary and/or modal verbs, express these ideas in two different ways:

a. It rained. The game _____ canceled.

It rained. The game _____ canceled.

b. It is raining. The game _____ canceled.

It is raining. The game _____ canceled.

c. It will be raining. The game _____ canceled.

It will be raining. The game _____ canceled.

d. *I'm not sure fifteen clowns _____ fit in the car.*

I'm not sure fifteen clowns _____ fit in the car.

2. Use a modal verb to express a possibility:

I did not win the lottery! If I had played your number I _____ won.

John is late to work. He is supposed to arrive by 9:00. He _____ arrive until 10:00.

Write two sentences of your own using “auxiliary verbs” and “modals” and underline them:

ex. *My friend will be coming early, so I have to run fast.*
