

John Colet School

Summer Homework

Year 9

Name:

Year:

English Teacher:

Auxiliary Verbs

What is an auxiliary verb and when would I use one?

Rules:

Helping verbs or **auxiliary verbs** such as *will, shall, may, might, can, could, must, ought to, should, would, used to, need* are used in conjunction with **main verbs** to express shades of time and mood. The combination of helping verbs with main verbs creates what are called **verb phrases** or **verb strings**. In the following sentence, "will have been" are helping or auxiliary verbs and "studying" is the main verb; the whole verb string is underlined:

- As of next August, I will have been studying chemistry for ten years.

Be	Do	Have
am	does	has
is	do	have
are	did	had
was		having
were		
being		
been		

Modal Auxiliary Verbs – *can, could, do, may, might, ought, used to.*

Examples: *Can I take your dog, Toto, for a walk to the park?*

*Susana **could** sing as well as dance.*

***Do** you know the Eight Parts of Speech, my dear?*

***May** I have the pleasure of dancing with you?*

*I **might** go to the party with Hannah.*

*Michael **ought** to look for another job in the hospital.*

*I **used to** design pencil sharpeners before I became famous*

Task 1

Underline the complete verb in each sentence. Circle the helping verb (auxiliary verb).

1. Jason will play video games tomorrow.
2. The surgeon has operated many times before.
3. My little sister is singing like a rock star.
4. Scott can kick better than anyone on the team.
5. The beautiful sailboat was built in 1985.
6. Sarah is walking her puppy in the park.
7. Jake and his dad are using the computer.
8. Mom will bake special cookies for the party.
9. Tim had given his mother some flowers.
10. The very small girl can ski all by herself.

Identifying the Complete Verb. Underline the main verb and the auxiliary verb(s) in the following sentences. Do not include any modifiers.

1. When are you going on your canoe trip?
2. Mr. Costello is constantly giving us directions.
3. Jim should have pitched his tent sooner.
4. Joe could have been badly injured.
5. The new paints are constantly being improved.
6. We will be electing class officers tomorrow.
7. The snowfall had not quite ended at six this morning.
8. I shall certainly miss you next week.
9. Mrs. Barnes has always given generously to charity.
10. The price of most food is rising again.
11. How many books have you read this year?
12. I have already seen that TV program.
13. The old man does not walk to town any more.
14. Nancy and Mark have been given major parts in the school play.
15. Your good deed will never be forgotten.
16. Ms. Smith has definitely agreed to our suggestions.
17. The new club officers will have been chosen by tomorrow evening.
18. You could have gone to the party without me.
19. Mr. Davis has never neglected his work before.
20. Our team could have played in the state tournament.

Finite and non-finite Verbs

What is a finite verb and when would I use one?

Rules:

A Finite verb is one that can be used with a subject to make a tense.

*I **walked** to school yesterday. We **watched** the cricket match together.*

The finite forms of the verb are those which signal contrasts of number, tense, person and mood.

Show a contrast in **tense**:

She **works** in London. She **worked** in London.

Show a contrast in number and person:

He **works**. They **work**. I **am**. You **are**.

Allow the expression of facts, possibilities wishes, and other contrasts of **mood**:

He asked that the car **be** moved. It **was** moved.

A **finite verb** is a word like **break, work, broke, sing, write** etc. Finite verbs change their form according to the number and person of the subject. For instance, when the subject is a singular noun, the *finite verb break* changes its form into *breaks*. Finite verbs are also governed by the tenses. For instance, when the sentence is in the simple past tense, *the finite verb break changes its form into broke*. Similarly, *work changes into worked and sing changes into sang in the past tense*.

Non-finite verbs do not change their form according to the number and person of the subject. Examples are **gerunds, participles and infinitives**.

I like reading.

He likes reading

Here the verb **like** is finite because it changes its form according to the number and person of the subject. The gerund **reading** is non-finite because it does not change its form according to the number and person of the subject.

There are three non-finite forms of the verb:

The **-ing** participle: I'm **going**. They're **going**. He was **going**. **Going** home, I/we/they felt concerned.

The **-ed** participle:

I've **asked**. He was **asked**. They were **asked**. **Asked** to come home early, I/you/we arrived at 3.

The base form used as an **infinitive**: They might **see**. I'll **see**. He wants to **see**.

Task 1

Add a finite verb to the subordinate clause in each sentence:

When the bus _____, the children all rushed off.

The horses were grazing happily until the motorbike _____ past their field.

When Thomas _____ the news, he did not believe it.

Find out the finite and non-finite verbs in the sentences given below:

1. He gave me a chair to sit.
2. It was a sight to see.
3. I want to buy some clothes.
4. Barking dogs seldom bite.
5. He is about to leave.
6. It is time to start.
7. He was wearing a torn shirt.
8. He had his shoes polished.
9. They got the roof repaired.
10. Finding the door open I went inside.

Possessives

What types of possessive words are there and when do I use them?

Rules:

Possessive pronouns

We use possessive pronouns to refer to a specific person/people or thing/things (the "antecedent") belonging to a person/people (and sometimes belonging to an animal/animals or thing/things).

number	person	gender (of "owner")	possessive pronouns
singular	1st	male/female	mine
	2nd	male/female	yours
	3rd	male	his
		female	hers
plural	1st	male/female	ours
	2nd	male/female	yours
	3rd	male/female/neuter	theirs

We use possessive adjectives to show who owns or "possesses" something. The possessive adjectives are:

- my, your, his, her, its, our, their, whose

number	person	gender	possessive adjective	example sentence
singular	1st	male/female	my	This is my book.
	2nd	male/female	your	I like your hair.
	3rd	male	his	His name is "John".
		female	her	Her name is "Mary".
		neuter	its	The dog is licking its paw.

plural	1st	male/female	our	We have sold our house.
	2nd	male/female	your	Your children are lovely.
	3rd	male/female/neuter	their	The students thanked their teacher.
singular/plural	1st/2nd/3rd	male/female (not neuter)	whose	Whose phone did you use?

Task 1

Replace the personal pronouns with possessive adjectives

- Where are (you) _____ friends now?
- Here is a postcard from (I) _____ friend Dees.
- She lives in England now with (she) _____ family.
- (He) _____ wife works in Tilburg.
- (He) _____ company builds websites.
- Joanie is (John and Nancy) _____ daughter.
- Our names are Kathy and Robin. This is (Kathy and Robin) _____ mother.

- Jeremy and Valerie are (Tim and Carey) _____ parents.
- Tony is (Mary) _____ grandson.
- My name is Annie. This is (Annie) _____ father.
- (Alex) _____ name is Alex.
- Peggy and Martin are (Kelly) _____ children.
- Your name is Greg. They are (Grey) _____ parents.

Task 2

Write the possessive pronoun that should be used in each sentence.

- (1) The barrette with the butterfly on it is _____.
that girl's
- (2) I am amazed that you got a perfect score on _____ test.
you took
- (3) Amber has a large collection of stuffed animals in _____ bedroom.
Amber's
- (4) The envelope has a beautiful stamp on _____ front.
of the envelope
- (5) The white Honda is _____.
Robert's and Elizabeth's
- (6) The audience enjoyed _____ flute solo.
she played
- (7) This slice of pizza is _____.
for you
- (8) The book no longer has _____ cover.
of the book
- (9) The basketball is _____.
that boy's
- (10) I think that this package is _____.
for you

Modifiers

What are modifiers and when do I use them?

Rules:

A modifier is a word, phrase, or clause which functions as an adjective or an adverb to describe a word or make its meaning more specific.

Modifiers As Adjectives

When a modifier is an [adjective](#), it modifies a [noun](#) or a [pronoun](#). (In these examples, the modifiers are shaded, and the words being modified are bold).

- Lee caught a **small** **mackerel**.

(Here, the adjective *small* modifies the noun *mackerel*.)

- Lee caught **a** **small** **mackerel**.

(Don't forget that [articles](#) (i.e., *the*, *an*, and *a*) are adjectives too. Here, *a* modifies the noun *mackerel* as does *small*.)

- Lee caught **another** **one**.

(Here, the adjective *another* modifies the pronoun *one*.)

Modifiers As Adverbs

When a modifier is an [adverb](#), it modifies a [verb](#), an adjective, or another adverb. For example:

- Lee **accidentally** **caught** a small whelk.

(Here, the adverb *accidentally* modifies the verb *caught*.)

- Lee caught an **incredibly** **small** mackerel.

(Here, the adverb *incredibly* modifies the adjective *small*.)

- Lee **supposedly** **accidentally** caught a small whelk.

(Here, the adverb *supposedly* modifies the adverb *accidentally*.)

A misplaced [modifier](#) makes the meaning of a sentence ambiguous or wrong.

Examples of Misplaced Modifiers

Here are some examples of misplaced modifiers (shaded):

- Andrew told us **after the holiday** that he intends to stop drinking.

(In this example, it is not clear whether Andrew made this statement after the holiday or whether he intends to stop drinking after the holiday.)

- Running **quickly** improves your health.

(In this example, it is not clear if *running* modifies *running* or *improves*.)

Task 1

Revise the following sentences to correct misplaced or dangling modifiers.

1. The tall boy led the parade with red hair.
2. My brother just listens to one radio station.
3. After dancing solo on stage, the audience applauded Anna's performance.
4. While taking a nap, the volcano erupted.
5. The new student will take the corner seat wearing the muscle shirt.
6. Hoping the weather would improve, the corn was planted during the heat wave.
7. Unfortunately, I can only take three students to the concert.
8. Totally destroyed by the tornado, he had to rebuild his barn.
9. While standing in line, the thunder could be heard.
10. Kathy donated a television to the Youth Center that she no longer used.

Homonyms

What is a homonym and when would I use one?

Homonyms are words that sound the same, and are sometimes spelled the same, but have different meanings. For example:

- Aunt - Ant
- Ate - Eight
- Berry - Bury
- Be - Bee
- Beat - Beet
- Brake - Break
- Buy - By - Bye
- Close - Clothes

Task 1

Select the correct homonym and write it on the line

Once upon a time _____ (their/there) was a beautiful princess. She lived with her Uncle and _____ (Auntie/Ante). She spent _____ (ours/hours) every day brushing her long _____ (fair/fare), curly _____ (hair/hare). Her favourite moment was when she let it flop down lightly on her _____ (bear/bare) neck.

Most days the princess liked _____ (to/too) go for long walks in the near by _____ (wood/would).

One day she was walking, and the sky was a wonderful _____ (blue/blew) colour. She stopped to admire the pretty view. The _____ (sun/son) was positively gleaming like a jewel. She didn't notice the approach of a hunched figure with a cloak, carrying a basket of _____ (flours/flowers). The figure stopped about _____ (ate/eight) feet from the princess and watched her carefully.

She turned around, and couldn't believe the _____ (sight/site) before her.

"What do you want with me?" she asked worriedly.

The figure merely _____ (made/maid) a grumbling sound in _____ (they're/their) throat.

The princess didn't want to get _____ (to/too) _____ (clothes/close) because she had often been warned by her Uncle that she shouldn't talk to any _____ (mail/male) on her own.

Being uncommonly _____ (board/bored), the Princess decided to risk her life in discovering the identity of her strange companion.

She whipped the cloak _____ (of/off) with a flourish and gasped.

Standing before her was a massive _____ (mail/male) _____ (bare/bear). The princess screamed all the way home.

Preposition

What is a preposition phrase and when would I use it?

A preposition is a word that joins a noun to the rest of a sentence.

It explains where the noun is.

The bag was on the table.

The girl walked under the scaffolding.

It sat among the bushes.

The sentences would not work without the prepositions.

Common prepositions

about	beneath	into	throughout
above	beside	near	to
across	between	of	toward
against	by	on	under
among	except	onto	up
at	for	out	upon
behind	from	over	with
below	in	through	without

Prepositional phrases that begin sentences are usually followed by commas.

However, short prepositional phrases need not be.

Original sentence:

A fat yellow cat lay sleeping on the narrow sill.

How would it read if it started with the preposition?

On the narrow sill, a fat yellow cat lay sleeping.

Task 1

Spot and underline the prepositions

- * The cat sat under the bush as it was raining.
- * The girl walked slowly across the playground.
- * Helen put the book on the table.
- * The postman posted the letter through the letterbox.
- * James was hiding behind the sofa.

Add a prepositional phrase to the end of these sentences to show where the events happened.

a) The boy climbed ***over the fence***

b) The man was standing

c) The girl jumped

d) The dog ran

Add a prepositional phrase that tells us when each of these events happened.

a) Sally went for a run ***before she went to work***

b) James knocked on his friend's door

c) It began to rain

d) We went to the cinema

Participles

What is a participle and how/when do I use them in English?

Participles are added to verbs in the present or past tenses. In the present participle, parts of the verb *to be* is used with the infinitive verb; -ing is added to the infinitive. In the past participle, parts of the verb *to have* is used with the infinitive verb; -ed is added to the infinitive.

A participle is a word formed from a [verb](#) which can be used as an [adjective](#).

The two types of participles are the [present participle](#) (ending *ing*) and the [past participle](#) (usually ending *-ed, -d, -t, -en, or -n*).

Here are some participles being used as adjectives:

The Verb	The Past Participle	The Present Participle
To rise	the risen sun	the rising sun
To boil	the boiled water	the boiling water
To break	the broken news	the breaking news
To cook	the cooked ham	the cooking ham

Participle Phrases

It is really common to see participles in [participle phrases](#). A participle phrase also acts like an adjective. In the examples below, the participle phrases are shaded and the participles are in bold:

- The man **carrying** the bricks is my father.
(The participle phrase *carrying the bricks* describes the *the man*.)
- She showed us a plate of scones **crammed** with cream.
(The participle phrase *crammed with cream* describes the *scones*.)

- **Whistling** the same tune as always, Ted touched the front of his cap with his forefinger as she dismounted.

(The participle phrase *Whistling the same tune as always* describes *Ted*.)

- **Stunned** by the blow, Mike quickly gathered his senses and searched frantically for the pepper spray.

(The participle phrase *Stunned by the blow* describes *Mike*.)

Task 1

Rewrite the sentences replacing the italic part with a present participle.

1. *She was talking to her friend* and forgot everything around her.
→
2. *Since we watch the news every day* we know what's going on in the world.
→
3. *They are vegetarians* and don't eat meat.
→
4. *The dog wagged its tail* and bit the postman.
→
5. *While she was tidying up her room* she found some old photos.
→
6. *He was a good boy* and helped his mother in the kitchen.
→
7. *As they didn't have enough money* they spent their holidays at home last year.
→
8. The man was sitting in the cafe. *He was reading a paper.*?
→
9. *Since I didn't feel well* I didn't go to the cinema.
→
10. *She walked home* and met an old friend.
→

The verbs in italics are sometimes followed by a participle. Complete the sentences using the Present Participle.

1. I *smelled* something (burn) in the house.
2. She did not *see* the car (come) closer.
3. Do you *notice* Tom (talk) to Amelie?
4. We *heard* the boys (knock) at the door.
5. We *listened* to the mother (sing) her child to sleep.
6. She could *feel* herself (blush) .
7. I *found* my two cats (sit) on the table.
8. She jealously *watched* her boyfriend (flirt) with another girl