

## Unit 17: AUXILIARY VERBS: DO / HAVE / BE

We can use **do**, **have** and **be** (Unit 3) as auxiliaries.

With **do** and **have**, we use only the base form, **-s** form or past form (not the **-ing** form or past participle – Unit 14) this way.

For the forms of **be**, look at Unit 16. If you are not sure which form to use each time, look at Unit 15.

### 1

Use **do** + **BASE FORM** for negatives and questions in one-word verb formations (Units 19, 21).

**EXAMPLES:** Money **does not grow** on trees.  
**Do** they **know** how to make a fire?  
**Did** you **see** Halley's Comet?

### 2

Use **be** + **-ING FORM** for continuous formations.

**EXAMPLES:** It **is getting** colder. (Present – Unit 22)  
**Am** I **taking** your seat? (Present – Unit 22)  
He **was not driving** very fast. (Past – Unit 23)  
I must **be dreaming**. (with modals – Unit 27)  
We have **been swimming**. (Perfect – Unit 24)

Use **be** + **PAST PARTICIPLE** for passive formations.

**EXAMPLES:** Dates **are grown** in Arabia.  
**Were** you **shocked** by the news?  
It **was not taken** yesterday.

### 3

Use **have** + **PAST PARTICIPLE** for perfect formations.

**EXAMPLES:** Traffic **has become** a big problem. (Present – Unit 24.1)  
**Have** you **done** your homework? (Present – Unit 24.1)  
I **hadn't learnt** English before. (Past – Unit 26)  
They **have been** swimming. (Continuous – Unit 24.2)  
I must **have lost** it. (with modals – Unit 27)

**NOTICE:** **Do**, **have** and **be** can also be lexical verbs (Unit 3):

**EXAMPLES:** Why **did** [*auxiliary*] you **do** [*lexical*] it?  
I **have** [*auxiliary*] never **been** [*lexical*] there.  
**Has** [*auxiliary*] he **had** [*lexical*] enough?  
I **am** [*lexical*] tired.