

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.