

Chapter 11

Auxiliary Verbs

Auxiliary, or helping verbs, are used **before infinitives** to add a different meaning.

For example, you use auxiliary verbs to say:

- that someone is able to do something,
- that someone is allowed to do something, or
- that someone has to do something.

The helping verbs are **can, could, would, should, ought to, will, shall, may, might and must**.

can and could

➤ Use **can** and **could** to say that someone is **able to do something**.

She **can draw** really good pictures.

Mathew **can run** faster than Malay.

Can you ride a bike?

Can you help me with my homework?

She **could** already **read** before she started school.

Our teacher said we **could go** home early.

I ran as fast as I **could**.

Jennifer **could not come** to the party because she was ill.

Notes

- **Could** is the simple past tense form of **can**.
- When you put **not** after **can**, write it as one word: **cannot**.
They **cannot find** their way home.
- The contraction of **cannot** is **can't**, and the contraction of **could not** is **couldn't**.

They **can't** find their way home.

I'm full. I **can't eat** any more.

Lisa **couldn't come** to the party because she was ill.

- You may also use **can** and **could** to say that someone is **allowed to do something**.

My mom says you **can come** to our house for dinner.

Dad says I **can't walk** to school on my own.

You **can't go** in there without a ticket.

Mom said I **could have** ice cream after my dinner.

- **Can** and **could** are also used for **asking for information or help, for offering something, and for suggesting something**.

Can you tell me if this train goes to Topeka?

Could you show me where the accident happened?

Could you open that window, please?

You can borrow my pen, if you like.

Your sister could come with us, if she wanted to.

I could lend you my football.

We can go to the library instead.

You could ask your dad to help us.

Jackie can borrow his brother's skates.

Will and would

- Use **will** and **would** when you **are asking someone to do something**.

Will you please stop making that noise?

Would you pass me that book, please?

Please, **will you** close the door?

Notes

The contraction of **will not** is **won't** and the contraction of **would not** is **wouldn't**:

Won't you stay and eat with us?

Wouldn't it be better to wait?

- You can also use **will** and **would to offer something or to suggest something.**

Will I hold this end of the rope?

Will I carry the bag for you?

Would you like another drink?

Which cake **would you** like?

Shall and should

- You can use **shall** and **should to ask for advice, offer something and suggest something.**

Should I bring waterproof clothes?

Should I phone the police?

Shall we go home now?

Shall I go by car, or will it be better to walk?

Shall I help you with that heavy bag?

You should try that new French restaurant.

Ought to

- You use **ought to make strong suggestions and talk about someone's duty.**

You look tired. **You ought to** go to bed early tonight.

I ought to get more physical exercise.

We ought to lock the door when we leave home.

You ought to turn off the computer when you're not using it.

You ought to know how to spell your own name.

The teacher ought to make his classes more interesting.

Must

- Use **must** to talk about things that you have to do.

I **must** mail this letter today.

You **must** speak louder. I can't hear you.

Children **must not** play with matches.

Go to bed now. Oh, **must I**?

Why **must I** do my homework tonight?

Notes

- **Must** keeps the same form in the past tense.
- The contraction of **must not** is **mustn't**.
- She **mustn't** let the dog sleep on her bed.

May and might

- Use **may** to ask if you are allowed to do something and to tell someone that they are allowed to do something.

"**May I** goes out to play now?" "Yes, **you may**."

May I borrow your pen?

Please **may I** see your ticket?

Jack may leave now, but Sally may not.

May Kevin come with us to the movies?

- Use **may** and **might** to talk about things that are possible or likely.

Take an umbrella. **It might** rain.

I may not have time to go swimming tonight.

We might go to the party later.

If you're not careful, **you may** hurt yourself.

"Are you going to the concert?" "I don't know. **I might** or **I might not**."

Exercise 1

Complete the sentences below by writing **can** or **can't** on the blanks.

1. You _____ borrow my book, if you want to.
2. Sameer looked everywhere but he _____ find his pencil.
3. Don't help me. I _____ do it by myself.

4. Greg _____ open the window. She's not tall enough to reach it.
5. "Why _____ John come out to play?" "Because he's ill."
6. This is a film for adults only. Children _____ watch it.
7. _____ you help me with this heavy bag?
8. They've lost the map and _____ find their way back to the hotel.

Exercise 2

Complete the sentences using **would** or **wouldn't** with a verb from the list below. The first one has been done for you.

stop	work	help	take	like
wait	buy	be	move	enjoy

1. We hoped it would be sunny for our picnic.
2. I pushed the horse hard but it _____.
3. I asked Dad if he _____ me some ice cream.
4. _____ you _____ some more orange juice?
5. Rachel switched on her computer but it _____.
6. Mom and Dad said they _____ me to the zoo as a treat.
7. We sat in the house and wished the rain _____.
8. Uncle David said he _____ me with my homework.
9. The man said he _____ until the doctor was free.
10. I knew you _____ playing my new video game.

Exercise 3

Tell whether each sentence below uses **may** or **may not** correctly.

Show a correct use with a checkmark or an incorrect use with an **x**.

1. Paul may not go out to play now because he has finished his homework.



2. Take an umbrella. It may not rain.
3. Please may we not watch television now?
4. You may not hurt yourself with that sharp knife.
5. I may come out to play later if I'm feeling better.
6. They are late. The bus may not have broken down.
7. "May I read the story you have written?" "Yes, you may not."
8. "May Neil stay for dinner?" "Yes, he may."

Exercise 4

Complete the sentences using **should** or **shouldn't** and a verb from the list below. The first one has been done for you.

go	eat	stop	believe	think
wait	try	read	let	listen

1. They should stop making all that noise. It's disturbing people.
2. Mom says I _____ more vegetables.
3. We _____ everything we see on television.
4. You _____ more about other people and less about yourself.
5. it's getting late. I _____ home now.
6. You _____ your best.
7. You _____ letters that are addressed to other people.
8. Parents _____ their children go out after dark.
9. Students _____ outside the door until the teacher tells them to come in.
10. Children _____ to the advice their parents give them.

Exercise 5

Now rewrite the sentences from Exercise 4 above, using **ought to** or **ought not to**.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____



Exercise 6

Complete the sentences using **must** or **mustn't** with a verb from the list below. The first one has been done for you.

go	eat	stop	believe	tell
steal	be	read	park	listen

1. You must stop at the curb and look before you cross the street.
2. Children _____ to the teacher if they want to learn.
3. You _____ everything your friends tell you.
4. You _____ the question carefully before you write the answer.
5. If you want to be healthy, you _____ a lot of fruits and vegetables.
6. You _____ out on your own at night.
7. We _____ because it is wrong.
8. Drivers _____ their cars in the middle of the road.
9. If you want people to be nice to you, you _____ nasty to them.
10. You _____ always _____ the truth.

Chapter 12

Subject-Verb Agreement

When you write a sentence you must make sure that the **subject** and the **verb** agree.

If the subject is a **singular noun**, or the pronoun **he**, **she** or **it**, you need a **singular verb**.



She **enjoys** music.



She **shares** her books with her friends.

The zookeeper **is feeding** the animals.
The children **are playing** on the swings.
The earth **moves** round the sun.
Dad always **drives** to work.
The clerk **is wrapping** a package.
Does everyone **know** the answer?
Mom **has bought** a dress for Sara.



It **is snowing**.

Use a **plural verb** if the subject is a **plural noun**, or the pronoun **we**, **you** or **they**.



The two girls always **walk** home together.



All birds **lay** eggs.

The stars **shine** brightly on a clear night.

Mom and Dad **love** us a lot.

Do you all **know** the words?

We **have finished** our game of tennis.

They **have** both **worked** very hard.



The children are **playing** on the slide

Collective nouns may be used with either **singular** or **plural** verbs. If the group members are all acting together as one, use a singular verb. If the members of the group are acting as individuals, use a plural verb.



The audience **are laughing**.



The band **is playing**.

Singular

That family has moved to Texas.
The team is coached by Mr. Clark.

Plural

The family was giving their opinions.
The team are sharing new ideas.



Our team **has** won.

Did you know?



Some plural nouns, such as **people, cattle, police**, don't end with **-s**. Always use a **plural verb** with these nouns.

For example:

People **like** to be praised.

The cattle **are** in the field.

The police **have caught** the thief.

- The rules of **Subject-Verb Agreement** are about the use of **S-endings** on either the subject or verb (but not both).

<p>Subject</p>	<p>Example sentences <i>HINT:</i> In each sentence, the group of (black) bold word(s) is the subject and the group of remaining word(s) is the predicate. <i>HINT:</i> The key word that decides if the verb adds -S or not, is in maroon (bold) and all verbs and helping verbs are <u>underlined</u>.</p>
<p>Count Noun</p>	
<p>Singular</p>	<p>A computer <u>costs</u> a lot of money. The kitten <u>is</u> cute.</p>
<p>Plural</p>	<p>These chairs <u>are</u> broken. Those monkeys <u>love</u> climbing.</p>

Non Count Noun	
Verb is always singular.	Water <u>is</u> not always clean. Rice always <u>tastes</u> good.
Group Noun	
Singular	The football team <u>practices</u> daily. His class <u>screams</u> when the teacher announces a test.
Plural	Two gangs <u>are</u> fighting. Three teams <u>are competing</u> for first place.
Pronoun	
Singular	She <u>cries</u> too much. He <u>eats</u> an apple a day. It <u>runs</u> on electricity.
Exception for Singular	I <u>like</u> her. You <u>are</u> a happy person.
Plural	We <u>study</u> together often. They <u>are reading</u> books.
Indefinite Pronoun	
Singular	Everything <u>is</u> fine with me. Someone <u>is</u> knocking at the door.
Plural	A few of the good books <u>are</u> left. Some people <u>like</u> chocolate while others <u>like</u> vanilla.
either Singular or Plural	None of his friends <u>is</u> going to the theatre. Most of his friends <u>love</u> pizza.
Noun Phrase with adjective	
Singular	Mary's red pen <u>is</u> out of ink. This thick book <u>is</u> interesting.
Plural	High school boys <u>play</u> football games on Saturdays. Those cute puppies <u>are barking</u> .
Noun Phrase with preposition	
Singular Note: The subject is never the noun after the preposition.	The cat on the fence <u>is</u> John's. This folder under the table <u>contains</u> some articles and journals.
Plural	The books on the top shelf <u>are</u> about American history. The girls in my class <u>are</u> smart.
Clauses with that, who, whom or which	
Singular	The girl who is sitting across from me <u>is looking</u> at me now.



	The newspaper which I need <u>is</u> under the table.
Plural	The <i>elephants</i> that walk around the zoo <u>are</u> from Africa. The <i>children</i> whom Mary loves <u>are</u> orphans.
Gerund	
is always considered as Singular	<i>Walking</i> regularly <u>helps</u> us to improve our health. <i>Eating</i> vegetables and fruit <u>is</u> good for us.
Infinitive	
is always considered as Singular	<i>To love</i> everyone <u>is</u> a good action. <i>To make</i> the Dean's List <u>requires</u> a lot of studying.
Subject with "and"	
Notice: If you use and to show two subjects, the verb doesn't need an S-ending.	<i>Watering</i> the plants and <i>sweeping</i> the floor <u>are</u> John's daily duties. <i>To read</i> books and <i>to write</i> letters <u>are</u> different skills. <i>John</i> and <i>Mary</i> <u>have become</u> good friends.

Exercise 1

DIRECTIONS: Identify whether the sentence correctly shows subject-verb agreement.

1. I am happy to be here.

- correct
 incorrect

2. She dance very well.

- correct
 incorrect

3. You run faster than you walk.

- correct
 incorrect

4. The children sleeps peacefully.

- correct
 incorrect

5. Cats and dogs are my favourite animals.

- correct
- incorrect

6. You has no right to follow me.

- correct
- incorrect

7. We ski all the time.

- correct
- incorrect

8. You two is driving me crazy.

- correct
- incorrect

9. I agree with you.

- correct
- incorrect

10. You are the best cook.

- correct
- incorrect

Exercise 4

DIRECTIONS: Choose the verb that agrees with its subject.

1. It is often said that one should treat every day as if it _____ the last. (**is / are**)
2. Ten dollars an hour _____ what I pay my babysitter to watch our three children. (**is / are**)
3. Several of my friends _____ liposuction and they highly recommend it. (**has tried / have tried**)



4. The bowling team always _____ at the bar after their games for a pitcher of beer. (**meet / meets**)
5. Neither my neighbour nor I _____ pesticides on our lawn because we have little children. (**use / uses**)
6. No news _____ good news. (**is / are**)
7. I need to buy some new pants because this pair of jeans _____ getting old and faded. (**is / are**)
8. The Detroit Red Wings _____ having another successful year in the National Hockey League. (**is / are**)
9. I love the peace and quiet I get when my children _____ in school. (**is / are**)
10. Neither the passengers of the train nor its driver _____ hurt in the accident. (**was / were**)
11. I _____ that you agreed with me that taxes should not be raised. (**think / thought**)
12. _____ it you whom I drove home from church on Sunday? (**Weren't / Wasn't**)
13. I _____ to think on your proposal for a few days, do you mind? (**had / will have**)
14. The traffic _____ a mess during rush hour and it took me an hour to get home from work! (**was / were**)
15. I _____ stop thinking about the kitten I saw in the pound yesterday so I think I will adopt it. (**cannot / could not**)
16. I have kept every movie ticket stub from every movie we have _____ together. (**saw / seen**)
17. Everyday the same boy _____ down on the same bench and feeds the same pigeons. (**sits / sitting**)
18. I _____ not been able to stop smoking for longer than a week, I need help. (**has / have**)

19. "I can't get you out of my mind", _____ the performer while playing the piano. (**sing / sang**)
20. For every dollar donated the food bank _____ be able to buy enough food to feed a family for a day. (**will / was**)

