

## auxiliary verbs



- 1 I like cats, but my husband **doesn't**.  
Sally's coming tonight, but Angela **isn't**. (1 13))
- 2 A I loved his latest novel.  
B **So did I**.  
A I haven't finished yet.  
B **Neither (Nor) have I**.  
Andrew's a doctor and **so is his wife**.
- 3 A I don't like shopping online.  
B **I do**. I buy a lot of my clothes online.
- 4 A I went to a psychic yesterday.  
B **Did you?**  
A I'll make the dinner.  
B **Will you?** That's great!
- 5 A You didn't lock the door!  
B **I did** lock it, I know I **did**.  
A Silvia isn't coming.  
B She **is** coming. I've just spoken to her.
- 6 You won't forget, **will** you? She can speak Italian, **can't** she?

We use auxiliary verbs (*do, have, etc.*) or modal verbs (*can, must, etc.*):

- to avoid repeating the main verb / verb phrase, e.g. NOT *I like cats but my husband doesn't like cats*.
- with *so* and *neither* to say that someone or something is the same. Use *so* + auxiliary + subject with a positive verb, and *neither* (or *nor*) + auxiliary + subject with a negative verb.
- to say that someone or something is different.
- to make 'reply questions', to show interest or surprise.
- to show emphasis in a positive sentence, often when you want to contradict what somebody says. With the present / past simple, we add *do / does / did* before the main verb. With other auxiliaries, e.g. *be, have, will* the auxiliary verb is stressed and not contracted.
- to make question tags, usually to check information. We use a positive auxiliary with a negative verb and a negative auxiliary with a positive verb.
  - Question tags are often used simply to ask another person to agree with you, e.g. *It's a nice day, isn't it?* In this case the question tag is said with falling intonation, i.e. the voice goes down.
  - Question tags can also be used to check something you think is true, e.g. *She's a painter, isn't she?* In this case the question tag is said with rising intonation, as in a normal *yes / no* question.

a Complete the mini-dialogues with an auxiliary or modal verb.

- A You didn't remember to buy coffee.  
B I **did** remember. It's in the cupboard.
- 1 A He's booked the flights, \_\_\_\_\_ he?  
B Yes, I think so.
- 2 A It's hot today, \_\_\_\_\_ it?  
B Yes, it's boiling.
- 3 A Why didn't you go to the meeting?  
B I \_\_\_\_\_ go to the meeting, but I left early.
- 4 A I wouldn't like to be a celebrity.  
B Neither \_\_\_\_\_ I.
- 5 A Emma doesn't like me.  
B She \_\_\_\_\_ like you. She just doesn't want to go out with you.
- 6 A Mike's arriving tomorrow!  
B \_\_\_\_\_ he? I thought he was arriving today.
- 7 A What did you think of the film?  
B Tom liked it, but I \_\_\_\_\_. I thought it was awful.
- 8 A Are you a vegetarian?  
B Yes, I am and so \_\_\_\_\_ my boyfriend.
- 9 A You'll remember to call me, \_\_\_\_\_ you?  
B Yes, of course!
- 10 I really want to go to Egypt, but unfortunately my husband \_\_\_\_\_. He hates the heat.

b Complete the conversation with a suitable auxiliary verb.

- A You're Tom's sister, <sup>1</sup>*aren't* you?  
B Yes, I'm Carla.
- A It's a great club, <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ it?  
B Well, it's OK. But I don't like the music much.
- A <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ you? I love it! I've never been here before.  
B Neither <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_. I don't go clubbing very often.
- A Oh <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_? I <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_. In fact, I usually go most weekends.  
B <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ you? I can't afford to go out every weekend.
- A I didn't see you at Tom's birthday party last Saturday. Why <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ you go?  
B I <sup>9</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ go but I arrived really late because my car broke down.
- A Oh, that's why I didn't see you. I left early.  
B I fancy a drink. I'm really thirsty after all that dancing.
- A So <sup>10</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ I. Let's go to the bar.

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