

Auxiliary verbs

Name: _____

What is an auxiliary verb?

Some verbs cannot work on their own. They need a helper known as an auxiliary verb.

For example: The boys are running.

Running is the verb but it cannot work on its own – it is helped by *are*. Therefore the auxiliary verb in this sentence is *are*.



List of common auxiliary verbs

am, is, are, was, were, will, would, can, could, has, have, had, may, might

Auxiliary verbs and tenses

The tense of the auxiliary verb usually indicates the tense of the verb.

For example: I am eating my breakfast. (present continuous tense).

I was eating my breakfast. (past continuous tense).

I will eat my breakfast (future tense).

1. Fill in the spaces with the present continuous tense:

- The children (play) outside now.
- I (do) my homework now.
- They (watch) TV now.
- The children (sleep) now.
- Mother usually (cook) dinner in the evenings.

2. Rewrite the following sentences in the past continuous tense.

- She (sleep) in her new bedroom.
- The man (sing) as he walked along the railway line.
- Mother (rests) in the garden when it started to rain.
- James the dog.....(barks) as he ran alongside Peter in the garden.
- While Jenny (plays) tennis the phone rang.

3. Rewrite these sentences in the future continuous tense using will + be + ing.

- The children are going to watch television from 9 until 10 o'clock this evening.
- Tomorrow afternoon I'm going to play soccer at the club.
- We are going to clean the flat tomorrow.
- The match begins at 7.30 and ends at 9.15.
- We are meeting tomorrow afternoon at 5pm.