

Student Notes: Using Auxiliary and Modal Verbs

Key Uses of Auxiliary (do, have, etc.) and Modal Verbs (can, must, etc.)

1. To Avoid Repeating the Main Verb or Verb Phrase

- Use auxiliary verbs to avoid repeating the main verb.
- Example:
 - I like cats, but my husband **doesn't**.

2. With “So” and “Neither” to Show Agreement or Similarity

- Use **so + auxiliary + subject** to agree with an affirmative statement.
- Use **neither + auxiliary + subject** to agree with a negative statement.
- Example:
 - She loves chocolate. **So do I.**
 - He doesn't like coffee. **Neither do I.**
- Always use an affirmative auxiliary verb after “neither.”
 - Correct: **Neither did I.**
 - Incorrect: ~~Neither didn't I.~~

3. To Respond and Show Difference

- Use auxiliary verbs to respond to a statement and say that you (or someone/something) are different.

4. To Make Reply Questions

- Use auxiliary verbs to make reply questions, which often show interest or surprise.

5. To Show Emphasis or Contradict

- Use auxiliary verbs for emphasis in affirmative sentences, especially to contradict someone.
- With the simple present and simple past, add **do/does/did** before the main verb.
- With other auxiliaries (be, have, will), stress the auxiliary verb (not contracted).
- Example:
 - She finished the project. **I did finish it!**

6. To Make Tag Questions

- Use an affirmative auxiliary with a negative verb, and a negative auxiliary with an affirmative verb.
- Example:
 - It's a nice day, **isn't it**?
 - She's a painter, **isn't she**?

Tag Question Usage

- Tag questions are often used to ask another person to agree with you.
 - Example:
 - It's a nice day, isn't it? (Voice goes down with falling intonation)
 - Tag questions can also check if something you think is true.
 - Example:
 - She's a painter, isn't she? (Voice goes up with rising intonation, like a yes/no question)
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