



Auxiliary Verbs: Auxiliary Verb Functions: Short Answers, Tags & Emphasis

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. "Does she play tennis?" — "Yes, she ____."
a) does
b) is
c) has
d) plays
2. "Have they arrived yet?" — "No, they ____."
a) don't
b) haven't
c) aren't
d) didn't
3. "Were you at the meeting yesterday?" — "Yes, I ____."
a) did
b) were
c) was
d) am
4. "Can your sister drive?" — "No, she ____."
a) doesn't
b) isn't
c) won't
d) can't
5. "Is it raining outside?" — "Yes, it ____."
a) is
b) does
c) has
d) rains
6. You like chocolate, ____ you?
a) do
b) don't
c) aren't
d) can't
7. She can swim really well, ____ she?
a) doesn't
b) isn't
c) can't
d) won't
8. They haven't left yet, ____ they?
a) don't
b) aren't
c) hasn't
d) have
9. Tom was late this morning, ____ he?
a) wasn't
b) didn't
c) isn't
d) won't
10. We should book a table, ____ we?
a) should
b) shouldn't
c) don't
d) won't

11. I know you don't believe me, but I ____ see something strange last night.
a) do
b) was
c) did
d) have
12. People say he's lazy, but he ____ work very hard.
a) is
b) has
c) do
d) does
13. I'm not a big fan of opera, but I ____ enjoy that performance.
a) did
b) was
c) have
d) do
14. She rarely writes letters, but she ____ send a card every Christmas.
a) is
b) does
c) has
d) did
15. "You never tidy your room!" — "That's not true — I ____ tidy it!"
a) am
b) have
c) do
d) did
16. "I've just passed my driving test!" "____ you? Congratulations!"
a) Did
b) Do
c) Are
d) Have
17. "We're moving to Canada next month." "____ you? That's exciting!"
a) Are
b) Do
c) Have
d) Will
18. You've met my brother before, ____ you?
a) don't
b) haven't
c) didn't
d) isn't
19. "I can speak four languages." "____ you? That's impressive!"
a) Do
b) Are
c) Can
d) Have
20. Nobody told me about the change, but they ____ send an email to everyone else.
a) do
b) have
c) are
d) did



Answers

1. a) does
2. b) haven't
3. c) was
4. d) can't
5. a) is
6. b) don't
7. c) can't
8. d) have
9. a) wasn't
10. b) shouldn't
11. c) did
12. d) does
13. a) did
14. b) does
15. c) do
16. d) Have
17. a) Are
18. b) haven't
19. c) Can
20. d) did



Explanations

1. “does” (a)

In short answers, repeat the auxiliary verb from the question — not the main verb. 'Does she...?' → 'Yes, she does.'

2. “haven't” (b)

The question uses 'have' (present perfect), so the negative short answer needs 'haven't'. 'No, they haven't.'

3. “was” (c)

The question uses 'were' for 'you', but the answer switches to 'I', which takes 'was'. 'Yes, I was.' This is a common tricky point.

4. “can't” (d)

The question uses 'can', so the negative short answer uses 'can't'. 'No, she can't.'

5. “is” (a)

The question uses 'is' (present continuous), so repeat 'is' in the short answer. 'Yes, it is.' Never use the main verb alone in a short answer.

6. “don't” (b)

'You like chocolate' is a positive present simple statement with no visible auxiliary, so the tag uses the negative form of 'do': 'don't you?' Positive statement → negative tag.

7. “can't” (c)

The main clause uses 'can' (positive), so the tag must be negative: 'can't she?' Always match the modal or auxiliary from the main clause.

8. “have” (d)

The main clause 'They haven't left' is negative (present perfect with 'haven't'), so the tag must be positive: 'have they?' Negative statement → positive tag.

9. “wasn't” (a)

The main clause uses 'was' (positive past), so the tag needs the negative form: 'wasn't he?' Match both the auxiliary and the tense.

10. “shouldn't” (b)

The main clause uses 'should' (positive), so the tag must be negative: 'shouldn't we?' With modal verbs, simply add 'n't' to form the negative tag.

11. “did” (c)

Use emphatic 'did' to stress that a past action really happened. 'I did see something strange' emphasises the truth of the statement against doubt.

12. “does” (d)

Use emphatic 'does' with third person singular (he) in present simple to contradict a claim. 'He does work very hard' stresses the reality against what people say.

13. “did” (a)

Use emphatic 'did' for past simple emphasis. The speaker stresses that despite not usually liking opera, they genuinely enjoyed this particular performance.

14. “does” (b)

Use emphatic 'does' (third person singular, present) to highlight an exception to a general habit. 'She does send a card' emphasises that this is the one thing she always does.

15. “do” (c)

Use emphatic 'do' with first person present simple to strongly deny an accusation. 'I do tidy it!' means 'I really do tidy it — contrary to what you say.'

16. “Have” (d)

In an echo question, repeat the auxiliary from the original statement. 'I've (= I have) just passed...' uses present perfect, so the echo question is 'Have you?'

17. “Are” (a)

The original statement uses present continuous ('We're moving' = 'We are moving'), so the echo question repeats the auxiliary 'are': 'Are you?'

18. “haven't” (b)

The main clause uses present perfect 'have met' (positive), so the question tag needs the negative form: 'haven't you?' Don't confuse present perfect with past simple.

19. “Can” (c)

The original statement uses the modal 'can', so the echo question repeats it: 'Can you?' Always match the auxiliary or modal from the original sentence.

20. “did” (d)

Use emphatic 'did' to stress that the action (sending an email) really happened in the past, even though the speaker was excluded. The past tense context requires 'did', not 'do'.