

The tense system

There are three classes of verbs in English : auxiliary verbs , modal verbs and full verbs.

Auxiliary verbs

The auxiliary verbs are be , do , have

be

1-Be is used with verb+ -ing to make continuous verb forms.

Ex. You are lying .(present)

ex. They were reading .(past)

ex. I have been swimming.(present perfect)

ex. We will be having dinner at 8 oclock .(future)

ex. You must be joking. (infinitive)

2-Be used with the past participle to make the passive.

Ex. These books are printed in Hong Kong.(present)

ex. Where you born?(past)

ex. The city had been destroyed .(past perfect)

ex. This work should be done soon.(infinitive)

do

Do/does/did are used in the Present Simple and the Past Simple.

Ex. Do you smoke?(question)

ex. She doesn't understand.(negative)

ex. When did they arrive?(question)

2-Do/does/do/did are used to express emphasis when there is no other auxiliary.

Ex. I am not interested in sport, but I do like tennis.

Ex. If only he had a car! He does have a car!

Ex. Why didn't you tell me? I did tell you!

have

Have is used with the past participle to make perfect verb forms.

Ex. Have you ever tried sushi?(present)

ex. My car had broken down before.(past)

ex. I will have finished soon.(future)

ex. I would like to have met Napoleon.(infinitive)

ex. Having had lunch. We tidied up.(participle)

Have and have got

1-Have and have got are both used to express present possession.

Ex. Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Yes I do

Ex. Have you got any brothers or sisters?

Yes, I have got

2- Have to can be replaced with have got to for present obligation.

Ex. Do you have to go now?

Yes, I do Have you got to go now?

Yes , I have got to

3-Only forms of have (not have got) are used in all other tense.

Ex. I had my first car when I was nineteen.

ex. I have this car for two years.

ex. I will have a strawberry ice-cream, please.

ex. I would had three cars by the time I was twenty.

ex. I would like to have a pet. Ex. He loves having a sport car.

4-Have (not have got) is used in many expressions.

Ex. have breakfast

ex. have a barbecue

ex. have fun

ex. have a good time

ex. have a word with someone

5-Have got is generally more informal . It is used more in spoken English than in written English . However, they are often interchangeable . Have with the do /does forms is more common in America English.