## Lesson 3: The Matchups: X-Words and verb forms

In Lessons 1 and 2 we learned the 20 X-Words and the 6 forms of every English verb. Now we will look at the VERY IMPORTANT relationship that exists between X -Words and verb forms. That is:

- Certain verb forms must always appear with certain X-Words
- Certain verb forms must never appear with an X-Word.

We call these relationships "matchups." It is necessary to understand these matchups because they are ALWAYS true. This chart shows which X-Words and verb forms go together.

| The have family always goes with D-T-N | The do family always goes with Vb | The be family has 3 possibilities | All modals go with Vb |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| have <br> has D-T-N <br> had | do <br> does BASE <br> did | am  <br> is ING, <br> are D-T-N, <br> was or <br> were  | can / could <br> will / would BASE <br> shall/should | mus $\dagger$ <br> might BASE <br> may |

*Notice: 12 of the 20 X-Words go only with BASE.
Good news! The six forms of the verb and the 20 X -Words together, make all of the verb tenses in English.

X-WORD GRAMMAR FOR STUDENTS OF ESL

## Lesson 3 Exercise 1

Practice: The chart above is organized by X-Words. Now write the same information organized by the six forms of the verb.

| BASE goes with these X-Words: | ING goes with these X-Words: | D-T-N goes with these X-Words: | V/XO <br> goes with <br> these $X$ - <br> Words: | V/XS goes with these X-Words: | V/XD goes with these X-Words: |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \\ & 2 \\ & 2 \\ & 3 \\ & 4 \\ & 4 \\ & 5 \\ & 6 \\ & 6 \\ & 7 \\ & 7 \\ & 8 \\ & 9 \\ & 10 \\ & 11 \\ & 12 \end{aligned}$ | 1 | $\begin{aligned} & 1 \\ & 2 \\ & 2 \\ & 3 \\ & 4 \\ & 5 \\ & 6 \\ & 7 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | (hidden do) | (hidden does) | (hidden did) |

These charts tell us that V/XS, V/XO, and V/XD never appear with visible $X$ Words. We'll learn about their hidden X-Words later.

## Lesson 3 Exercise 2

Directions: In each of the sentences below, the main verb is in italics. Identify the form of each verb by placing the abbreviation of the form above it and place an $X$ over the X-Word in each sentence. (Text adapted from The Week)

## X D-T-N

Example 1: Erik has smoked for five years.

$$
X \text { ING }
$$

Example 2: He is trying to quit now.
1.The $100^{\text {th }}$ anniversary of the cigarette has arrived.
2. Camel cigarettes have been on the market for 100 years.
3. Is anybody celebrating this birthday?
4. For 40 years, we have known that smoking causes cancer, heart disease, and other fatal illnesses.
5. Around 4 trillion Camels were sold in the last 100 years.
6. Four million people have died from smoking them.
7.These people were killed by the ingredients in cigarette smoke.
8. Doctors are not celebrating the anniversary of cigarettes.
9. Families and friends of people who died might feel sad and angry.
10. Unfortunately, many young people will startsmoking this year despite the danger.

X-WORD GRAMMAR FOR STUDENTS OF ESL
Vocabulary: 4 trillion $=4,000,000,000,000 ; \quad 4$ million $=4,000,000$

## Lesson 3 Exercise 3

In these sentences the verbs are in italic print again, but notice that in these sentences, there are no visible X-Words. That means that the verb forms are either V/XO, V/XS, or V/XD. Identify the verb forms.

1. Erik started smoking when he was 11 years old.
2. His father and his older brother smoke.
3. Erik thought that a cigarette made him look grown up.
4. Now Erik wants to quit smoking.
5. His girlfriend hates cigarettes.
