

X-Words in English have 5 jobs

1. They shift to ask questions. (She can hear you now. --> Can she hear you now?)
2. They make negatives (add **not** or **n't** after the X-Word)
3. They help us find the subject (everything in front of the X-word is the subject)
4. They add meaning. (I might/ I can/ I should/ May I) (possibility, ability, obligation, politeness)
5. They add tense. (I will BASE, I have D-T-N, I didn't BASE)

VERB FORMS: There are 6 forms of every verb (except to be which has 8 forms)

With X-Words That Show			With X-Words That Hide		
Base	"present participle"	"past participle"	present "s"	"present"	"past"
BASE	ING	D-T-N	V/Xdoes	V/Xdo	V/Xdid
go	going	gone	goes	go	went
want	wanting	wanted	wants	want	wanted

X-Word and Verb Form Match-ups

X-Word	Always matches with Verb Form:	Example:
do does did	V/Xdo → do + BASE V/Xdoes → does + BASE V/Xdid → did + BASE	I <u>like</u> music. <u>Do</u> you <u>like</u> music? Anna <u>likes</u> music. <u>Does</u> Ana <u>like</u> music? Her parents <u>liked</u> music. <u>Did</u> your parents <u>like</u> music? My parents <u>didn't like</u> classical music.
can could will would shall should ought to must might may	+ BASE	<u>Can</u> you <u>help</u> me? I <u>can do</u> it. She <u>can't do</u> it. You <u>shouldn't practice</u> too much. That Paganini piece <u>must be</u> hard!
have has had	+ D-T-N	She <u>has played</u> the violin for 10 years. She <u>hasn't played</u> the violin for 10 years. <u>Has she played</u> the violin for 10 years?
am is are was were	+ ING + D-T-N to make the PASSIVE tense + no verb (description of subject)	He's <u>going</u> to bed now. This piece <u>was written</u> by Mozart.  I <u>was</u> busy.

To be

The ONLY verb in English that has 8 forms; **be**, **being**, and **been**, can be MIDDLE X-Words.

X and BASE	X and ING	X and D-T-N	X	X	X
be	being	been	am are	is	was were

Semi-Modals

Most **semi-modals** use the BASE

<i>be going to</i> <i>/gonna/</i>	+ BASE	I'm <u>going to go</u> home now. I'm not going to go home now.	intention (future)
<i>have to</i> <i>/hafta/</i>	+ BASE	I <u>have to study</u> for the test tonight. She <u>doesn't have to study</u> .	obligation
<i>have got to</i> <i>/gotta/</i>	+ BASE	I've got to go. /Gotta go./ (no negative or questions)	obligation
<i>ought to</i> <i>/awtta/</i>	+ BASE	He ought to practice more. (negative or questions rare in Am Eng)	obligation
<i>used to</i> <i>/usta/</i>	+ BASE	She <u>used to live</u> in Seoul. Negatives and questions always use DID. I <u>didn't use to live</u> in Seoul.	In the past, but not now.

Expanded verbs

Sometimes you can have more than one X-Word (usually *have* or *been*); the **same rules** apply:

Examples:

- X X+BASE D-T-N
- He could have been a doctor. (*past possibility*)
/coulda/
 - I should have known that it would rain if I forgot my umbrella. (*regret*)
/shoulda/
 - I would have played in Carnegie Hall if I'd had the money and the talent. (*hypothetical up to now*)
/woulda/
 - By June, you will have been taking this class for one semester. (*prediction of future completion*)
/willa bin/



- will** always matches with a BASE (have)
- have** always matches with a D-T-N (been)
- been** can match with ING (taking)



- I could have been sitting on the beach right now. Instead I'm shivering in New York. (*past possibility*)
/coulda bin/
- could** always matches with a BASE (have)
 - have** always matches with D-T-N (been)
 - been** can match ING (sitting)