

Before you start

1 Review these intermediate grammar points and check you know them.

FORM	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	QUESTION
imperative	<i>Talk to me!</i>	<i>Don't talk to me!</i>	
be	<i>He's outside. We're waiting for you.</i>	<i>He's not/He isn't outside. We're not/We aren't waiting.</i>	<i>Where is he? Are you waiting for us?</i>
present/ past simple	<i>I like Kenyan coffee. They finished early.</i>	<i>I don't like Kenyan coffee. They didn't finish early.</i>	<i>Do you like Kenyan coffee? When did they finish?</i>
perfect tenses	<i>They have arrived. They had seen the film.</i>	<i>They haven't arrived. They hadn't seen the film.</i>	<i>Have they arrived? What had they seen?</i>
modal verbs*	<i>We must leave soon.</i>	<i>You mustn't leave yet.</i>	<i>Must you leave now?</i>
infinitives	<i>I told you to go. To stop now would be silly.</i>	<i>I told you not to go. Not to stop now would be silly.</i>	
participles	<i>Having seen the film, I understand the hype.</i>	<i>Not having seen the film, I don't understand the hype.</i>	

* We don't use *does/do/did* with modal verbs:

Children shouldn't be allowed to watch violent films. Could you lay the table before dinner?

Negatives

- We use *not/n't* with verbs to make the meaning of a sentence negative. We usually contract subject + *be* (*I'm not, they're not*) but with *have* and *do/did*, we contract the auxiliary verb + *not* (*I haven't, they didn't*).
- In short answers with verbs of thinking and believing, e.g. *think, hope, believe, imagine*, we can put *not* after the verb. This use is quite formal and rare, except with *hope*:
'Has Susannah decided to call her daughter Brittany after all?'
~~✗ *I don't hope!*~~ ✓ *I hope not!*

Questions

- Closed questions start with a form of main verb *be*, an auxiliary verb or a modal auxiliary verb, e.g. *can, may, will*. We use them when we want a simple *yes/no* answer:
'Does your sister still live in Canada?' *'Yes, she does./No, not any more.'*
- Open questions start with a question word, e.g. *who, what, where, how*. We use them when we want to find out more information:
'Why did she leave Canada then?' *'She couldn't stand the cold winters.'*
- When we use more than one auxiliary verb in a sentence, e.g. *We've been waiting for ages*, we put *not* after the first auxiliary:
~~✗ *We've been not waiting long.*~~ ✓ *We haven't been waiting long.*
- In questions, only the first auxiliary comes before the subject:
~~✗ *Have been you waiting long?'*~~ ✓ *Have you been waiting long?'*