Unit one

1.1 Tenses

Unit 1 aims to review what you already know. It has examples of the:

Present Simple

Present Continuous

Past Simple

Past Continuous

Past Continuous

Present Perfect

Present Perfect

Passive voice

Does she live in Barcelona?

They're sitting outside.

He didn't study Biology.

We were waiting for hours!

I've finished my homework.

She's been promoted!

All these forms are covered again in later units.

Present tenses Unit 2
Past tenses Unit 3
Present Perfect Unit 7
Passive Units 2,3,7

1.2 Verbs

1 There are three classes of verbs in English.

Auxiliary verbs are used to form tenses and to show forms such as questions and negatives.

do be have

Do you like English food?

We are getting married tomorrow.

Modal auxiliary verbs 'help' other verbs, but they have their own meaning.

must can should might will would

We must get a new car. (must expresses obligation)

He can sing very well. (can expresses ability)

Full verbs are all the other verbs in the language, for example, *go, drink, dance, like,* etc.

1.2 Verbs

2 Do, be, and have can be used as full verbs with their own meanings.

She does a lot of exercise.

We were in Thailand last year.

He has a wonderful new job.

3 There are two forms of have in the present.

I don't have a bike. I haven't got a bike.

He has a new girlfriend. He's got a new girlfriend.

Do you have any money? Have you got any money?

(have as a full verb) (have + got)

Write the question.

Tara/have a brother?

Does Tara have a brother?

Has Tara got a brother?

1.3 Auxiliary verbs and tenses

1 Be + verb + -ing is used to make continuous verb forms which describe activities in progress and temporary activities.

I'm playing poker. (Present Continuous)
He was taking a test. (Past Continuous)

We've been skiing for a week. (Present Perfect Continuous)

We want to be relaxing, not working. (Continuous infinitive)

2 Be + past participle is used to form the passive.

Butter is made from milk. (Present Simple passive)

I was woken up by a car alarm. (Past Simple passive)

I've been invited to two parties tonight. (Present Perfect passive)

This room needs to be cleaned. (Passive infinitive)

1.3 Auxiliary verbs and tenses

3 Have + past participle is used to make perfect verb forms.

I've met two US presidents. (Present Perfect)
He was happy because he had won the race. (Past Perfect)
I'd like to have been a doctor. (Perfect infinitive)

4 Make the sentences.

1 She/study/right now (continuous)
2 My bike/steal/yesterday (passive)
3 I/see/the film twice (perfect)
She's studying right now.
My bike was stolen yesterday.
I've seen the film twice.

1.4 Auxiliary verbs and negatives

1 To make a negative, add -n't to the auxiliary verb. If there is no auxiliary verb, use don't/doesn't/didn't.

Positive
She's smiling.
She isn't smiling.
They were dancing.
I've been to Poland.
He speaks Russian.
We ate lunch.

Negative
She isn't smiling.
They weren't dancing.
I haven't been to Poland.
He doesn't speak Russian.
We didn't eat lunch.

He's trying. He's not trying./He isn't trying.

I've had dinner. I've not had dinner./I haven't had dinner.

It is possible to contract the auxiliaries be and have and use the uncontracted not.

1.5 Auxiliary verbs and questions

1 To make a question, invert the subject and the auxiliary verb. If there is not auxiliary verb, use do/does/did.

Statement	Question
He's reading Harry Potter.	What is he reading?.
You were at home.	Where were you?
She wants lemonade.	What does she want?
They like shopping.	Do they like shopping?
You bought a magazine.	What did you buy?
	Who did you take to the party?
	Who took my calculator?

There is usually no do/does/did in subject questions.

1.6 Auxiliary verbs and short answers

1 Short answers are very common in spoken English. If you just say Yes or No it can sound a bit rude.

Question Short answer

Are you enjoying the party? Has he met the boss yet?

Yes, I am. No, he hasn't.

To make a short answer, repeat the auxiliary verb.

Do they live near the beach? Did you go to the library?

Yes, they do. No, I didn't.

In the Present and Past Simple, use do/does/did.

Do you like cheese?

Yes, I do./No, I don't.

Have you been to Beijing?

Yes, I have./No, I haven't.