

UNIT 51

Auxiliary verbs in short answers, short questions etc.

So am I / Neither am I

I think so / I hope so etc.

- a)

Can you swim?	I have lost my key.	He might not come.
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In these sentences **can**, **have** and **might** are *auxiliary* (= helping) verbs.

We often use auxiliary verbs when we don't want to repeat something:

- 'Are you working tomorrow?' 'Yes, I **am**.' (= I am working tomorrow)
- He could lend us the money but he **won't**. (= he won't lend us the money)

Use **do/does/did** for present and past simple short answers:

- 'Does he smoke?' 'He **did** but he **doesn't** any more.'

- b) We use auxiliary verbs in short questions:

- 'It rained every day during our holiday.' 'Did it?'
- 'Ann isn't very well today.' 'Oh, **isn't** she?'
- 'I've just seen Tom.' 'Oh, **have** you? How is he?'

These short questions (**Did it?**, **isn't she?**, **have you?**) are not real questions. We use them to show polite interest in what someone has said and they help to keep the conversation going.

Sometimes we use short questions to show surprise:

- 'Jim and Nora are getting married.' 'Are **they**? Really?'

- c) We also use auxiliary verbs with **so** and **neither**:

- 'I'm feeling tired.' 'So **am** I.' (= I am feeling tired too)
- 'I never read newspapers.' 'Neither **do** I.' (= I never read them either)

Note the word order after **so** and **neither** (*verb* before *subject*):

- I passed the exam and **so did** Tom. (*not* 'so Tom did')

Nor can be used instead of **neither**:

- 'I can't remember his name.' 'Nor **can** I. / Neither **can** I.'

Not ... either can be used instead of **neither** and **nor**:

- 'I haven't got any money.' 'Neither **have** I.' or 'I haven't **either**.'

- d) **I think so / hope so etc.**

We use **so** in this way after a number of verbs, especially **think**, **hope**, **expect**, **suppose** and **I'm afraid**:

- 'Is she English?' 'I **think so**.'
- 'Will Tom come?' 'I **expect so**.'
- 'Has Ann been invited to the party?' 'I **suppose so**.'

The negative form depends on the verb:

I think so / I expect so - I **don't think so** / I **don't expect so**

I hope so / I'm afraid so - I **hope not** / I'm **afraid not**

I suppose so - I **don't suppose so** or I **suppose not**

- 'Is she American?' 'I **don't think so**.'
- 'Is it going to rain?' 'I **hope not**.' (*not* 'I don't hope so')

UNIT 51 Exercises

51.1 In this exercise you are talking to someone. Answer him in the way shown.

Examples: I'm hungry. Are you? I'm not.
I'm not tired. Aren't you? I am.

- 1 I like Brian.
- 2 I can't ride a horse.
- 3 I've got plenty of friends.
- 4 I didn't enjoy the film much.
- 5 I'd get married if I were in Tom's position.
- 6 I don't like living in the country.
- 7 I'm not going to have anything to eat.
- 8 I've never been to America.
- 9 I thought the exam was quite easy.

51.2 Here too you are talking to someone. You have the same ideas, taste etc. as your friend. Use So ... or Neither ... each time.

Examples: I'm feeling tired. So am I. I don't like eggs. Neither do I.

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| 1 I need a holiday. | 6 I was ill yesterday. |
| 2 I don't like milk. | 7 I should smoke less. |
| 3 I couldn't get up this morning. | 8 I spent the whole evening watching television. |
| 4 I'd love a cup of tea. | 9 I didn't know that Ann was in hospital. |
| 5 I've never been to Africa. | |

51.3 Now you have to answer with I think so, I hope not etc. You are B in each conversation. Read the information in brackets before you answer each question.

Example: (You hate rain.) A: Is it going to rain? B: (hope) I hope not.

- 1 (You need more money quickly.)
A: Do you think you'll get a pay increase soon? B: (hope)
- 2 (You think Tom will probably get the job which he applied for.)
A: I wonder if Tom will get the job. B: (expect)
- 3 (You're not sure whether Jill is married – probably not.)
A: Is Jill married? B: (think)
- 4 (You haven't got any money.)
A: Can you lend me some money? B: (afraid)
- 5 (Your friend's sister has been badly injured in an accident.)
A: Is she badly injured? B: (afraid)
- 6 (Ann normally works every day, Monday to Friday – tomorrow is Wednesday.)
A: Is Ann working tomorrow? B: (suppose)
- 7 (You're in a hurry to catch your train – it's important that you don't miss it.)
A: Do you think we're going to miss the train? B: (hope)
- 8 (You're not sure but the concert probably begins at 7.30.)
A: Does the concert begin at 7.30? B: (think)