

Lecture One

English Language - Upper intermediate

Unit 1 Grammar summary: No place like home

The tense system

There are three classes of verbs in English: auxiliary verbs, modal auxiliary verbs, and full verbs.

1. Auxiliary verbs

Be

a. Be is used with verb +- ing to make continuous verb forms.

Ex: You are lying. (Present)

They were reading. (past).

We 'll be having dinner at 8 o'clock. (future)

b. Be is used with the past participle to make the passive.

Ex: These books are printed in Hong Kong. (present)

Where were you born? (past)

The car (has/ ('s)) been serviced (present perfect)

Do

a. Do/does/ did are used in the present simple and the past simple.

Ex: Do you smoke? (Question)

She doesn't understand. (negative)

b. Do/does/did are used to express emphasis when there is no other auxiliary.

I'm not interested in sport, but I do like tennis.

Have

Have is used with the past participle to make perfect verb forms.

Ex: Have you ever tried sushi? (present)

My car had broken down before. (past)

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