

Chapter 7 Lending a Helping hand: The auxiliary verb

Answer keys for additional exercises

Exercise 1

- a) aux: *were*; main verb: *saying*
- b) aux: *been*; main verb: *married*

Exercise 3

- a) VP: *had been meeting*
 - *had*: primary auxiliary; next verb is the past participle form
 - *been*: primary auxiliary; next verb is the present participle form
 - *meeting*: main verb; last verb in VP; this is what the sentence is about (it is about “meeting,” not “being” or “having”)
 - b) VP 1: *'ve written up*
 - *'ve*: primary auxiliary; next verb is the past participle form
 - *written up*: main verb, last verb in VP; this is what the sentence is about
- VP 2: *goes out*
- *goes out*: main verb; only verb in VP; this is what the sentence is about
- VP 3: *needs checked*
- *needs*: marginal modal; first slot in VP; next verb is in past participle (dialect variation!)
 - *checked*: main verb; last verb in VP; this is what the sentence is about

c) VP: *had gave*

- *had*: primary auxiliary; next verb is the past form [note: dialect variation here!]
- *gave*: main verb; last verb in VP; this is what the sentence is about

d) VP: *Ø been doing*

- *Ø*: dialect variation; form of “have” not necessary
- *been*: primary auxiliary; next verb is the present participle form
- *doing*: main verb; last verb in VP; this is what the sentence is about

e) VP 1: *was*: main verb; only verb in VP; this is what the sentence is about

VP 2: *might couldn't find*

- *might*: central modal; first slot in VP; next verb is second modal
- *couldn't*: central modal; next verb is in bare form
- *find*: main verb; last verb in VP; this is what the sentence is about