

## Lesson 1: X-Words

There is a group of very important words in English. They are called **X-Words**. They are important in the language because they do so much work. Here are the things that X-Words are used for:

- 1) They are used to ask questions,
- 2) They are used to make negative statements
- 3) They are used to find the subject of a sentence
- 4) They are used to change tense
- 5) They are used to add meaning

**X-Words** are also called **auxiliary words** or **helping verbs**

Here are the 20 X-Words:

The "have" group	The "do" group	The "be" group	The "pairs" group		The "m" group
have	do	am	can	could	must
has	does	is	shall	should	might
had	did	are	will	would	may
		was			
		were			

We can arrange the X-Words any way we wish. I have put them this way because I think it is easier to remember them if I put them in groups.



- The first group I call the "have" group.
- I call the next group the "do" group because it contains the words do, does, and did.
- Then we have the "be" group (am, is, are, was, were).
- I remember the next six X-Words by thinking of them as pairs.
- Last there are the three X-Words that begin with the letter "m"

You can remember the X-Words by singing them to the tune of *Jingle Bells*. Try it.

Let's practice identifying X-Words in sentences.

### Lesson 1 Exercise 1

Read the sentences below. There is at least one X-Word in each sentence. Some sentences have two X-Words. Find each X-Word and place an X over it.

X

1. Students have travelled to other countries to study for hundreds of years.
2. They might want a school that specializes in their field, like fashion, music, or engineering.
3. College is also an opportunity to learn about different kinds of people and cultures.
4. English is very useful right now, so lots of students are coming to the United States to study.
5. Students at this college can take a variety of different courses.
6. Some students are taking intensive English courses.
7. Other students are studying specialized English that prepares them for their field.
8. Do most students get homesick? Of course they do.
9. Younger students may miss their parents.

10. Familiar food is another thing that students are homesick for.
11. Suddenly, they might want stinky tofu or their mother's kimchi.
12. Older students may leave a boyfriend or girlfriend at home.
13. Yu-Cheng's boyfriend is back in China.
14. If she had stayed there, she would probably be married now.
15. Homesick students might form \*cliques with friends from their native countries.
16. Cliques can make students feel safer.
17. Unfortunately, hanging out with people from your own country will make it hard to learn English.

\* **clique** /kLIk/ a small group of people that doesn't let other people in their group.

**Lesson 1 Exercise 2** a. Label the columns    b. Write the 20 X-Words:

			"Modals"	
have group			pairs	"M" group
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____



### Lesson 1 Exercise 3

**Directions:** Mark the X-Word with an X. Write the most obvious use of the X-Word. The first one is done for you.

1 Find the subject

Students who hang out with people from other countries will learn English faster.

2 \_\_\_\_\_

Yu-Cheng won't speak her own language in class.

3 \_\_\_\_\_

Do most students get homesick?

4 \_\_\_\_\_

Today we're studying . Tomorrow we will study verb forms.

5 \_\_\_\_\_

If Sanguk passes grammar class, he can start college in September. If he fails, he might start in December.

### Lesson 1 Exercise 4 Preview

Look at the main verbs (the verbs that come after the X-Word) in Exercise 3. Write the main verbs after their X-Words below. What do you notice?

1. will \_\_\_\_\_

4. are \_\_\_\_\_

2. won't \_\_\_\_\_

will \_\_\_\_\_

3. do \_\_\_\_\_

5. can \_\_\_\_\_

might \_\_\_\_\_