

● grammar summary

In spoken English, we often leave words out if the meaning is clear. This often happens after auxiliary verbs.

She said she would phone, but she didn't. (= '... she didn't phone.')

I'll finish the work as soon as I can. (= '... as soon as I can finish the work.')

There are several common kinds of **short spoken sentence** made with **subject + auxiliary verb**:

- **question tags:** *You're from Scotland, aren't you?*
- **short answers:** *'Did you see Patrick?' 'No, I didn't.'*
- **reply questions:** *'I've got a headache.'* *'Have you? I am sorry.'*
- **so do I, nor can I etc:** *'I was really cold on that bus.'* *'So was I.'*

We also often leave out **infinitives** (and other words) after **to**.

I've never seen the Taj Mahal, but I'd like to. (= '... I'd like to see the Taj Mahal.')

And we may leave out **small words** (pronouns, articles, auxiliary verbs) at the **beginning of sentences**.

Don't know. (= 'I don't know.')

Train's late. (= 'The train's late.')

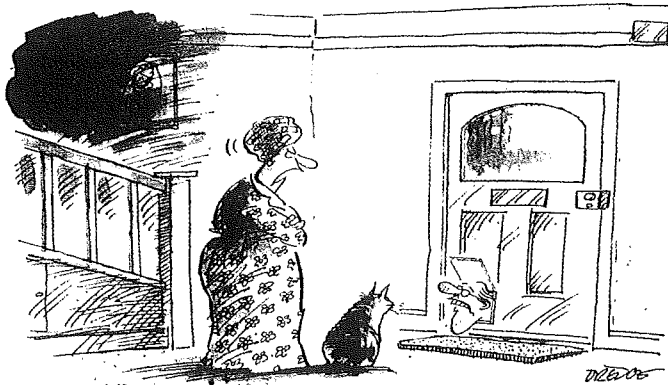
Been waiting long? (= 'Have you been waiting long?')

● pre-test: which units do you need?

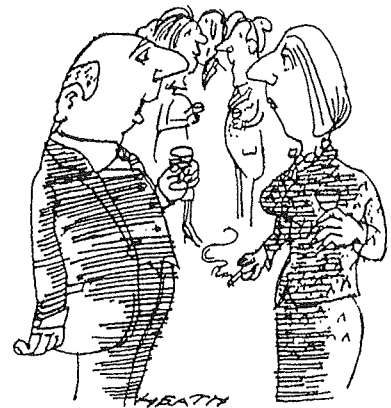
Try this small test. It will help you to decide which units you need. The answers are on page 284.

① Correct (✓) or not (X)?

- 1 Are you English, are you? ...
- 2 Eric passed his exam, didn't he? ...
- 3 There weren't enough chairs, were there? ...
- 4 'I didn't like the party much.' 'Didn't you?' ...
- 5 'Can you swim?' 'Yes, I do.' ...
- 6 'My father plays a lot of tennis.' 'So mine does.' ...
- 7 The President didn't answer my letter, and neither did the Foreign Minister. ...
- 8 I haven't seen many films this year, but my sister has seen. ...
- 9 'Can you walk a bit faster?' 'I'm trying to.' ...
- 10 Lost your key? ...



'Forgotten your key again, George?'



'It's all coming back to me now. We were married once, weren't we?'

question tags *This music isn't very good, is it?*

Question tags are short questions that can follow sentences, especially in **spoken English**.

We make question tags with **auxiliary verb** (*have, be, can* etc) + **pronoun** (*I, you* etc).

We use question tags to **ask if something is true**, or to ask people to **agree** with us.

You haven't got my keys, have you? *Ann will be here tomorrow, won't she?*

This music isn't very good, is it? *That child can run fast, can't he?*

Question tags are usually **negative** (☒) after **affirmative** (☑) sentences, and **not negative** after **negative** sentences. We **don't** put question tags **after questions**.

It is warm, isn't it? *It isn't cold, is it?* (BUT NOT ~~*is it cold, isn't it?*~~)

Negative tags are usually **contracted** (see page 277) – for example *isn't it?* (NOT USUALLY *is it not?*)

The negative tag for *I am* is *aren't I?* (see page 277)

I'm late, aren't I?

1 Question tag or nothing (-)? Circle the correct form.

▷ I'm late, *am I?* / *aren't I?* / - ?

▷ You can't swim, *can you?* / *can't you?* / - ?

▷ Has Ann phoned *has she?* / *hasn't she?* / *-?*

1 You'll be here tomorrow,
will you? / *won't you?* / - ?

2 The postman hasn't come,
has he? / *hasn't he?* / - ?

3 Are you ready *are you?* / *aren't you?* / - ?

4 It's dark in here, *is it?* / *isn't it?* / - ?

5 He can't speak Greek, *can he?* / *can't he?* / - ?

6 The train's late, *is it?* / *isn't it?* / - ?

7 The food wasn't bad, *was it?* / *wasn't it?* / - ?

8 Have you done it *have you?* / *haven't you?* / - ?

If the sentence has an **auxiliary verb** or *be*, we use this in the question tag.

You would like coffee, wouldn't you? *I'm not talking too fast, am I?*

Ann doesn't eat meat, does she? *You aren't angry with me, are you?*

If there is **no auxiliary verb**, we use *do/does/did* in the tag.

They went to Spain, didn't they? *The lesson starts at 6.00, doesn't it?*

2 Here are some sentences from real conversations. Put in the question tags.

▷ You're playing football tomorrow, *aren't you?*.....

1 That's the answer,

2 We're seeing Rebecca again tomorrow,

3 She's a lovely baby,

4 You'll be OK,, Roger?

5 Your brother can tell us that,

6 Margaret likes brown bread,

7 This house gets hot in summer,

3 Here are some negative sentences. Put in the question tags.

▷ They weren't at home, *were they?*.....

1 But he's not at school now,

2 You can't remember anything,

3 They don't use much electricity,

4 She doesn't look happy,

5 Those flowers don't need much water,

4 Change these questions into statements with question tags.

- ▷ Do you work at Smith's? *You work at Smith's, don't you?*
- 1 Have they lived in France? They've
- 2 Did they all go home early?
- 3 Did it rain all last week?
- 4 Does her brother write for the newspapers?
- 5 Do I need a visa?
- 6 Would you like a holiday?
- 7 Was the train late?
- 8 Did Sarah forget your birthday?

We can use *there* as a subject in question tags.

There's a letter for me, isn't there? There weren't any problems, were there?

5 Put in the question tags.

- 1 There was a phone call for me,
- 2 There are six more lessons this year,
- 3 There's a meeting this afternoon,
- 4 There hasn't been any snow this year,
- 5 There weren't many people at the party,

If a tag asks a real question, we say it with a rising intonation: the music of the voice goes **up**.

If a tag just asks for agreement, we use a falling intonation: the voice goes **down**.

We're meeting in Oxford, aren't we? *Nice day, isn't it?*

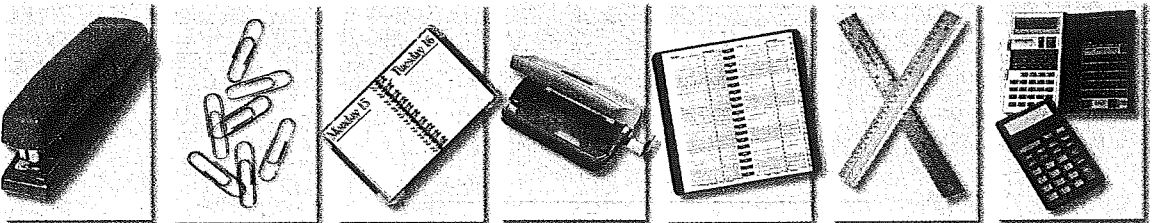
6 Try to pronounce these tags.

- 1 The lesson begins at twelve, doesn't it?
- 2 Your sister's gone to America, hasn't she?
- 3 Bill's a good singer, isn't he?
- 4 It's cold, isn't it?
- 5 You're from Scotland, aren't you?
- 6 She looks good in red, doesn't she?

7 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: seven things from the office

What would you ask if you were not sure of the names of the things in the pictures?

- ▷ *It's a stapler, isn't it?*
- 1 They're
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6



▷ stapler 1 paper clips 2 diary 3 hole-punch 4 address book 5 rulers 6 calculators

short answers *Yes, I have. No, they didn't.*

To answer just 'Yes' or 'No' is **not** always very polite.
 We often prefer answers with **pronoun** (*I, you* etc) + **auxiliary verb** (*be, have, can* etc).
 The auxiliary verb in the answer is usually **the same** as the one in the question.

'Are you coming?' 'Yes, I am.' 'Have you phoned home?' 'Yes, I have.'
 'Can Ellie speak Spanish?' 'No, she can't.' 'Did you watch the match?' 'No, I didn't.'

Negative (❌) short answers are usually **contracted** (see page 277): *can't, didn't* etc.
Affirmative (✅) short answers are **not contracted**: we don't say *Yes, I'm* or *Yes, she's*, for example.

1 Write short answers to these questions.

- ▶ 'Do you like jazz?' 'Yes, I do.....'
 - ▶ 'Are they coming home?' 'No, they aren't.....'
- 1 'Is it raining?' 'No,
 - 2 'Has Joe phoned?' 'No,
 - 3 'Do the children understand?'
'Yes,
 - 4 'Can I go now?'
'No,
 - 5 'Does your brother like sport?'
'No,
 - 6 'Do you want tickets?' 'Yes,
 - 7 'Would your mother like coffee?'
'No,
 - 8 'Was the film interesting?'
'No,
 - 9 'Are you ready?' 'No,

2 Give your own personal short answers to these questions.

- ▶ 'Do you like coffee?' 'Yes, I do' / 'No, I don't'
- 1 'Are you thinking in English now?'
 - 2 'Do you live in a town?'
 - 3 'Do you speak French?'
 - 4 'Is it raining now?'
 - 5 'Is your English getting better?'
 - 6 'Have you been to New York?'
 - 7 'Did you watch TV yesterday?'
 - 8 'Can you swim?'

We can use short answers to **agree** or **disagree** with things that people say.

'It's hot today.' 'Yes, it is.' 'You didn't buy bread.' 'Yes, I did.' 'The train's late.' 'No, it isn't.'

If there is **no auxiliary verb**, we use *do/does/did* in the short answer.

'Her hair looks nice.' 'Yes, it does.'

3 Write short answers to agree or disagree.

- 1 'You're early.' 'No,
- 2 'It's cold.' 'Yes,
- 3 'She sings really well.' 'Yes,
- 4 'The lesson starts at 5.00.' 'No,
- 5 'Bill didn't phone.' 'Yes,

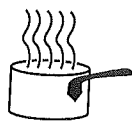
4 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: things that people can do

Answer with 'Yes, I can' or 'No, I can't'.

- 1 Can you knit?
- 2 Can you cook?
- 3 Can you skate?
- 4 Can you repair cars?
- 5 Can you dive?
- 6 Can you draw?
- 7 Can you shoot?
- 8 Can you ride a horse?



knit



cook



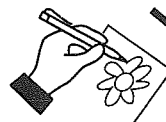
skate



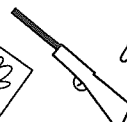
repair cars



dive



draw



shoot



ride a horse

reply questions *Oh, yes? Did they really?*

In conversation, we often ask **short questions** (auxiliary verb + pronoun) to show interest.

'I've just had a letter from Eric.' **'Have you?'** *'Yes. He says he's coming back ...'*

These **'reply questions'** are not really questions: they mean *'Oh, yes? That's interesting.'*

Some more examples:

'John's getting married.' **'Is he really? Who to?'**

'Ann and Peter had a lovely time in Greece.' **'Did they?'** *'Yes. They went ...'*

We answer **negative** sentences with **negative** reply questions.

'I can't see very well with these glasses.' **'Can't you? Maybe you should get new ones.'**

1 Put the beginnings and ends together, and put in reply questions.

1 'Oliver didn't eat much.'	A 'Didn't he?' Perhaps he's ill.' ✓
2 'I don't like this bread at all.'	B '..... I hope they're having a good time.' ...
3 'The Smiths are in America.'	C '..... I'll get a different kind next time.' ...
4 'My French is getting very bad.'	D '..... When's he going to bring it back?' ...
5 'John's taken the car.'	E '..... I'll have a look at them.' ...
6 'I can't understand these papers.'	F '..... You need to go to France for a few weeks.' ...

2 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: showing our feelings

Complete the sentences with reply questions and expressions from the box. Use a dictionary if necessary. Different answers are possible.

Congratulations.	Good luck.	I am sorry.	I don't believe it. ✓
Say 'hello' to him/her for me.	That's interesting.	That's terrible.	
That's a surprise.	What a nuisance.	What a pity.	

- 'The Swiss have declared war on America.' ~~'Have they? I don't believe it.'~~.....
- 'I've just passed my exams.'
 - 'I'm seeing Mary next week.'
 - 'My job interview is tomorrow.'
 - 'Some trees can live for thousands of years.'
 - 'John didn't get into university.'
 - 'My computer has crashed again.'
 - 'I don't feel well.'
 - 'Andy and Paula are getting married.'
 - 'I haven't got enough money to buy food.'

revision of spoken question and answer structures

QUESTION TAGS	SHORT ANSWERS	REPLY QUESTIONS
<i>It is ..., isn't it?</i>	'Are you ...?' 'No, I'm not.'	'I'm ...' 'Are you?'
<i>I am ..., aren't I?</i>	'Has she ...?' 'Yes, she has.'	'He's ...' 'Has he?'
<i>She has ..., hasn't she?</i>	'Do they ...?' 'Yes, they do.'	'They like ...' 'Do they?'
<i>They like ..., don't they?</i>	'Are we ...?' 'No, we aren't.'	'We're ...' 'Are we?'
<i>We aren't ..., are we?</i>	'He wasn't ...' 'No, he wasn't.'	'She wasn't ...' 'Wasn't she?'
<i>He didn't ..., did he?</i>	'She didn't ...' 'Yes, she did.'	'He didn't ...' 'Didn't he?'

1 Circle the best answer.

- ▶ Ann can't sing at all, can she? / she can't.
- 'I'm worried about Peter.' 'You are?' / 'Are you?' / 'Aren't you?'
 - 'Joe didn't phone yesterday.' / 'Joe phoned yesterday.' 'Didn't he?'
 - 'I'm feeling ill.' / 'I'm not feeling well.' 'Are you?'
 - 'Does John need help?' / 'John needs help.' 'Does he?'
 - Do you remember David, / You don't remember David, do you?
 - 'I've got a headache.' 'You haven't.' / 'You have.' / 'Have you?'
 - They can stay with us, they can't? / can't they? / can they?

2 Read the conversation, and put in question tags (QT), short answers (SA) or reply questions (RQ).

- QT 'Hello, Carol. Lovely day, ▶ isn't it?.....'
- SA '▶ Yes, it is...... How are you?'
- 'Well, I've got a problem.'
- RQ '▶ Have you?..... What's the matter?'
- QT 'You remember my brother's boy Bill, 1
- SA; QT '2 He went to Australia, 3
- SA 'No, 4 He went to Canada. Anyway, he's coming back to England.'
- RQ '5 That's nice.'
- 'Well, yes, but he wants to stay with me.'
- RQ 'Oh, 6 Is that the problem?'
- SA '7 I'm not very happy about it.'
- RQ; QT '8 Why? You like Bill, 9
- SA '10 - very much.'
- QT 'And you've got a lot of room in that big house, 11
- SA '12 But would you like to have a young man living in your house all the time?'
- 'No, I suppose not.'
- 'Well, I don't know what to do. I'm really very worried.'
- RQ '13 Would you like some advice?'
- SA '14
- 'Tell him the truth. Say you like him a lot, but you don't want people in your house.'
- QT 'I can't say that, 15
- SA '16 He'll understand. I'm sure of it.'
- RQ '17 I don't know. Anyway, I'll think about it.'

leaving out words *Don't know if she has.*

We often use just an auxiliary verb instead of repeating a longer expression, if the meaning is clear. This happens in question tags, short answers and reply questions (see pages 266–269), and in other sentences too.

'Get up!' 'I am.' (= 'I am getting up.') Come round tomorrow evening, if you can.
I haven't seen that film, but my brother has. (NOT ...but my brother has seen.)

We use *do/does/did* if there is no other auxiliary verb to repeat.

David said he knew the address, but he *didn't* really.

1 Make these sentences more natural by crossing out unnecessary words.

- ▶ You said it wasn't raining, but it is ~~raining~~.
- 1 He thinks I don't understand, but I do understand.
 - 2 'You'd better eat something.' 'I have eaten something.'
 - 3 Alice said she would lend me her car, but I don't think she will lend me her car.
 - 4 Eric was sure he would pass his exam. I hope he has passed his exam.
 - 5 'Will you write to me every day?' 'Of course I will write to you every day.'
 - 6 I can't help you today, but I can help you tomorrow.

We often use *to* instead of a longer expression, if the meaning is clear.

'Would you like to stay with us next weekend?' 'I'd love to.' (= 'I'd love to stay with you.')
I don't play tennis, but I used to. 'Are you going to Scotland this summer?' 'We hope to.'

2 Complete the sentences, using the words in the box with *to*.

I'd like	It's starting	I'm trying	✓ I used	she didn't want	Sorry, I forgot	They hope
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- ▶ 'Can't you go faster?' ...~~I'm trying to~~.....
- 1 'Are Sue and Dave getting married this year?'
 - 2 I asked her to dance, but
 - 3 I've never learnt to ski, but
 - 4 I don't speak German very well now, but
 - 5 'Did you remember to phone Liz?'
 - 6 'Is it raining?'

In conversation, people may leave out 'small words' (for example pronouns, articles, auxiliary verbs) at the beginnings of sentences.

Must go now. *Can't help you, sorry.* *Don't know.* *Car's not going well.*
Seen Bill? (= 'Have you seen Bill?') *Nobody here.* (= 'There's nobody here.')

3 Write the complete sentences.

- 1 Couldn't understand what he wanted from me.
- 2 Doesn't know what she's doing.
- 3 Bus is late again.
- 4 Speak French?
- 5 Haven't seen them.
- 6 Don't think so.

→ For sentences where we leave out *that*, see pages 241 and 246.

So am I. Nor can Pat.

To say that A is/does the same as B, we can use *so* + auxiliary verb (*be, have, can, etc*) + subject (note the word order).

'I'm hungry.' 'So am I.' (NOT '~~So I am.~~') Sue's stopped her lessons, and so has Eric

If there is **no auxiliary verb** to repeat, we use *do/does/did*.

'My brother works in the theatre.' 'So does my cousin

1 Complete the sentences, using *so*.

- ▶ 'My job's boring.' (mine) 'So is mine.'
- ▶ 'My room gets very cold at night.' (mine) 'So does mine.'
- 1 'Ann is very interested in history.' (Alice)
- 2 'My grandfather plays golf all day.' (my father)
- 3 'I can swim under water.' (I)
- 4 'Peter wants a bicycle for Christmas.' (Mary)
- 5 'Joe has just got married.' (Eric)

In **negative** sentences we use *neither* or *nor* + auxiliary verb + subject.

'I'm not working today.' 'Neither am I.' 'Mary can't drive.' 'Nor can Pat.'
Bill doesn't like the boss, and neither does Jan.

2 Complete the sentences, using *neither/nor*.

- ▶ Joe didn't play very well, and (the others) ~~was did the others~~ OR ~~neither did the others~~
- 1 The soup wasn't very good, and (the meat)
- 2 'Bill hasn't phoned yet.' (Annie)
- 3 'This dictionary doesn't show pronunciation.' (this one)
- 4 'I can't cook.' (I)
- 5 His parents won't help him, and (his friends)

We can use short sentences (**subject + auxiliary verb**) to say that A is **not** the same as B

'I'm not going to school today.' 'I am.' Some people don't like modern art, but I do
'I like this music.' 'I don't.' The food was cheap, but the drinks weren't

3 Complete the sentences with expressions from the box.

her second one	her sister	my car	my father ✓
our dog	the back door	the green ones ✓	the train

- ▶ 'My father works too hard.' 'My father doesn't.'
- ▶ 'The red apples aren't very sweet.' 'The green ones are.'
- 1 'My car doesn't use a lot of petrol.'
- 2 'Mary has passed all her exams.' 'Yes, but'
- 3 Most dogs can swim, but
- 4 'The bus takes a long time to get to London.'
- 5 The front door wasn't open, but
- 6 'Her first book didn't sell very well.'

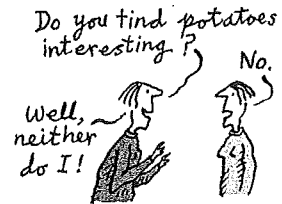
4 Look at the table and write sentences.

	LIKES DANCING	HAS BEEN TO AMERICA	PLAYS TENNIS	CAN SKI	IS TALL	LAUGHS A LOT
ERIC	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
JULIE	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
PAUL	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
DAN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DENISE	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
RACHEL	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓

- ▶ (Eric, Dan, dancing) ... Eric likes dancing, and so does Dan.
- ▶ (Julie, Rachel, ski) ... Julie can't ski, and nor can Rachel.
- ▶ (Julie, Denise, laugh) ... Julie laughs a lot, but Denise doesn't.
- ▶ (Eric, Julie, America) ... Eric hasn't been to America, but Julie has.
- 1 (Eric, Dan, tennis)
- 2 (Julie, Denise, tall)
- 3 (Denise, Paul, laugh)
- 4 (Dan, Rachel, ski)
- 5 (Julie, Denise, America)
- 6 (Eric, Paul, tall)
- 7 (Julie, Dan, tennis)
- 8 (Paul, Rachel, dancing)

5 Here are some facts about Mike and Katy. Are you the same as them, or different? Write your answers, using *So am I*, *Neither/Nor do I*, *I have*, *I can't*, etc.

- ▶ Katy has got blue eyes. ... So have I. OR I haven't.
- ▶ Mike doesn't like fish. ... I do. OR Nor do I.
- 1 Katy is interested in politics.
- 2 Mike has been to Texas.
- 3 Katy can sing.
- 4 Mike likes old music.
- 5 Katy speaks French.
- 6 Katy isn't very tall.
- 7 Mike hasn't got much hair.
- 8 Katy can't drink milk.
- 9 Mike doesn't like hot weather.
- 10 Mike doesn't understand computers.



We can also use *too* or *not either* to say that A is/does the same as B.
 'I'm hungry.' 'I am too.' Lucy hasn't written, and Carol hasn't either.
 In informal conversation we often say *Me too* instead of *So do I*, *I do too* etc.
 'I've got a headache.' 'Me too.' (NOT 'I also'.)

test yourself spoken grammar

① Put in the question tags.

- ▶ It's a nice day, *isn't it?*.....
- 1 You can play the piano, 3 You haven't got the keys,
- 2 Ann will be here tomorrow, 4 Peter likes fishing,
- 5 There wasn't much rain in the night,

② Change these questions into statements with question tags.

- ▶ Do you live in Dublin? *You live in Dublin, don't you?*.....
- 1 Have they gone home? They've
- 2 Do we need tickets?
- 3 Would you like some more coffee?
- 4 Was Mike away yesterday?

③ Write short answers.

- ▶ 'Do you like swimming?' 'Yes, *I do.*.....'
- 1 'Was Mary at home?' 'No,
- 2 'Does Bill play cards?' 'No,
- 3 'Would your sister like some tea?' 'No,
- 4 'The plane arrives at 6.45.' 'No,

④ Write reply questions.

- ▶ 'I've just passed my exam.' '*Have you?*..... Congratulations.'
- 1 'Mary's getting a new job.' '..... I hope she likes it.'
- 2 'Joe and Pat moved to London in March.' '..... I didn't know.'
- 3 'My father can speak four languages.' '..... He must be very clever.'
- 4 'We were all ill after the club dinner.' '..... That's terrible.'
- 5 'I won't be here next week.' '..... Come and see us the week after.'

⑤ Complete the sentences with *So am I, Nor/Neither do I*, etc.

- ▶ Arthur has gone home, and (☐ *Jane*) *so has Jane.*.....
- 1 Oliver can run very well and (☐ *Susan*)
- 2 The 3.15 train hasn't arrived yet, and (☐ *the 3.45*)
- 3 'I wasn't happy at school.' (☐ *I*)
- 4 Ken didn't come to the lesson, and (☐ *Sally*)
- 5 Peter likes travelling, and (☐ *his brother*)

⑥ Make these sentences more natural by crossing out unnecessary words.

- ▶ You said you weren't late, but you were ~~late~~.
- 1 She says I don't love her, but I do love her.
- 2 'You should phone Aunt Lucy.' 'I have phoned Aunt Lucy.'
- 3 Robert thought that he would get rich fast, but I don't think he will get rich fast.
- 4 'Help me.' 'I'm trying to help you.'

⑦ Write the complete sentences.

- 1 Car won't start. Don't know why. *The car won't start.*.....
- 2 'Seen my mother today?' 'Don't think so.'
'.....' '.....'
- 3 Sorry, can't come in here.