

Words that can be left out

Unstressed words are often left out at the beginning of a sentence if the meaning is clear without them. Words that can be left out include auxiliary verbs, personal pronouns, possessives and articles.

Kids are studying. (= The kids are studying.)

Seen John? (= Have you seen John?)

Wife is unwell. (= My wife is unwell.)

Couldn't do anything. (= I couldn't do anything.)

Must go. (= I must go.)

Can't wait for the holidays. (= I can't wait for the holidays.)

Will do it tomorrow. (= I will do it tomorrow.)

Doing well, I hope? (= You are doing well, I hope.)

Nobody at home. (= There is nobody at home.)

Careful what you say. (= Be careful what you say.)

Be forty dollars. (= That will be forty dollars.)

See you soon. (= I will see you soon.)

Haven't seen him. (= I haven't seen him.)

Auxiliary verbs can be left out before personal pronouns except I and it.

He want to come? (=Does she want to come?)

You ready? (= Are you ready?)

But you can't say: *I late* instead of *am I late?*