

## Range of operators

1. The verb expression may have several auxiliaries:

He *should have been* questioned by the police

2. In such cases, it is the first auxiliary that acts as operator:

*Should* he have been questioned by the police?

No, he *shouldn't* have been questioned by the police.

Yes, he *should*.

3. Where the verb expression has no auxiliary in the positive declarative sentence, *do* is introduced when an operator is required:

It *rained* steadily all day.

*Did* it rain steadily all day?

No, it *didn't*.

4. The verb *be* can act as operator whether it is an auxiliary, as in:

John *is* searching the room *Is* John searching ...?

or not, as in:

The girl *is* now a student *Is* the girl now ...?

5. The same is true to some extent (especially in BrE.) for *have*:

He *has* a degree *Has* he a degree?

### Operators

#### Exercise 4

Identify the whole of the subject of each of the sentences below. Then transform each sentence so as to form a *yes-no* question on the model:

Operator + subject + rest of the predicate,  
and answer the question on one of the following models:

*Yes* + subject (pronoun) + operator;

*No* + „ „ + „ +n't:

- 1 Computers are fairly commonplace today.
- 2 We have a computer here. (*Give two different transforms*)
- 3 Full-scale computers use a large number of programs.
- 4 These programs have to be changed from time to time.
- 5 A special period will need to be set aside for this operation.
- 6 Thinking about this led us to an interesting conclusion.
- 7 Someone having a dream could be performing a similar operation.
- 8 Most people have had the experience of dreaming in a feverish state.
- 9 Then the sleeper sees dreams as a jumbled sequence of unimportant detail.
- 10 This jumbled sequence of detail keeps dancing in front of his eyes.
- 11 The speaker is seriously comparing dreams with what happens in a computer.
- 12 The process of changing a computer programme can be compared with human dreams.