

A Yes/no questions and answers

- Questions with the answer *yes* or *no* are formed with an auxiliary verb + subject + main verb. The auxiliary can be *do, be, have* or a modal verb like *can, will, would*. Short answers repeat the auxiliary.

Present simple	A. Do you speak French?	B. Yes, I do. / No, I don't.
Present continuous	A. Are you staying at the Metropole?	B. Yes, I am. / No, I'm not.
Past simple	A. Did you check all the invoices?	B. Yes, I did. / No, I didn't.
Past continuous	A. Were you living in Rome at the time?	B. Yes, I was. / No, I wasn't.
Past perfect	A. Had you already left when I phoned?	B. Yes, I had. / No, I hadn't.
Present perfect	A. Have you seen my new painting?	B. Yes, I have. / No, I haven't.
Will	A. Will you be back before lunch?	B. Yes, I will. / No, I won't.
Can	A. Can you speak French?	B. Yes, I can. / No, I can't.

Have Kate's applications been rising over the past couple of years? Do you accept people into your MBA program without any work experience? Can you give applicants any advice on the best ways of securing scholarships? (BusinessWeek website)

- The main verb be comes before the subject in a question.

Is it time for the meeting?	Are you ready?	Was it a useful trip?
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B Question word questions

- Question words are: *what, when, where, which, who, whose, why, and how*. The key to production in the future will be partnership. One does not begin with the question 'What do I want?' and then 'How do I persuade these people?' One begins with the question 'What do they want?' and then 'How can this be made to fit into our common purpose?' - Peter Drucker (IndustryWeek website)
- After the question word we use the same structure as a yes/no question: auxiliary verb + subject + main verb.

Present simple	When do you usually leave work?
Present continuous	Which projects are you working on at the moment?
Past simple	Whose car did you borrow?
Past continuous	Where were you living at the time?
Present perfect	How much research had you done before the product launch?
Will	Why have you decided to cut back on investment this year?
Can	When will you be back?
	What languages can you speak?

C Question phrases

- We often use *what* and *which* with a noun.

What time are you arriving?	What areas do we need to cover in the meeting?
What sectors look promising at this time?	What implications would there be if the price of oil continues to rise? (BusinessWeek website)
- Which is more usual with people and organisations, and when there is a limited number of possible answers:

Which courier service representative were you speaking to?	Which way is it?
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- We can use *which* of or *which* one:

Which of the proposals did you accept?	Which one did you accept?
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- We cannot use *what* in this way.

How can we make phrases with <i>how</i> : <i>how many, how much, how old, how far, how often, how long, how fast, how often do you travel abroad on business?, how long will the meeting last?</i>
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D Question words as the subject

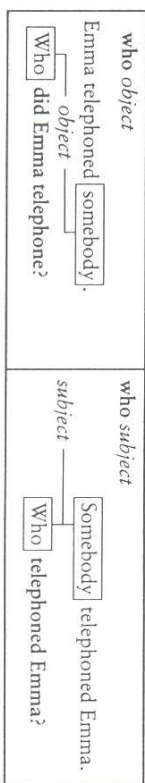
- Sometimes the question word is the subject of the sentence.

Who did you meet in Argentina? (you is the subject)	Who met you at the airport? (who is the subject, you is the object)
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- When a question word is the subject of a question do not use *do/does/did/what happened?*

Who works here? (What and Who are the subjects)	What did you do? (you and I are the subjects)
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- Note that auxiliaries other than *do/does/did* can be used, but there is no subject pronoun because the question word is the subject.

What has happened? (NOT What+has)	What will happen? (NOT What+will)
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But do not use *do/does/did* in questions if *who/what/which* is the *subject* of the sentence. Compare:



In these examples, *who/what/which* is the *subject*:

- Who wants something to eat? (not 'Who does want')
- What happened to you last night? (not 'What did happen')
- Which bus goes to the city centre? (not 'Which bus does go')

49.1 Make a new sentence from the question in brackets.

- Where has Tom gone? Do you know **where Tom has gone**.
- Where is the post office? Could you tell me **where**.
- What's the time? I wonder **what time it is**.
- What does this word mean? I want to know **what it means**.
- What time did they leave? Do you know **when they left**.
- Is Sue going out tonight? I don't know **if she is going**.
- Where does Carol live? Have you any idea **where she lives**.
- Where did I park the car? I can't remember **where I parked it**.
- Is there a bank near here? Can you tell me **if there is**.
- What do you want? Tell me **what you want**.
- Why didn't Kay come to the party? I don't know **why she didn't come**.
- Do you have to pay to park here? Do you know **if you have to pay**.
- Who is that woman? I've no idea **who she is**.
- Did Ann receive my letter? Do you know **if she has received it**.
- How far is it to the airport? Can you tell me **how far it is**.

49.2 You are making a phone call. You want to speak to Sue but she isn't there. Somebody else answers the phone. You want to know three things:

- Where has she gone? (1) When will she be back? and (3) Did she go out alone?
- Complete the conversation:
- | | |
|--|------|
| A: Do you know where she is ? | (1)? |
| B: Sorry, I've got no idea. | |
| A: Never mind. I don't suppose you know when she'll be back ? | (2). |
| B: No, I'm afraid not. | |
| A: One more thing. Do you happen to know if she's gone out ? | (3)? |
| B: I'm afraid I didn't see her go out. | |
| A: OK. Well, thank you anyway. Goodbye. | |

48.3 Put the words in brackets in the correct order. All the sentences are questions.

- (when / was / built / this house) **When was this house built?**
- (how / cheese / is / made) **How is cheese made?**
- (when / invented / the computer / was) **When was the computer invented?**
- (why / Sue / working / isn't / today) **Why isn't Sue working today?**
- (what time / coming / your friends / are) **What time are your friends coming?**
- (why / was / cancelled / the concert) **Why was the concert cancelled?**
- (where / your mother / was / born) **Where was your mother born?**
- (why / you / to the party / didn't / come) **Why didn't you come to the party?**
- (how / the accident / did / happen) **How did the accident happen?**
- (why / this machine / doesn't / work) **Why doesn't this machine work?**

Exercise 1 A B D

Underline the correct words.

- Spoke you / Did you speak with Lara yesterday?
- What did Lara say / said when you spoke to her?
- A: Do you like Scotch whisky?
B: Yes, I like. / Yes, I do.
- How works this machine? / does this machine work?
- Who set up Microsoft / did set up Microsoft?
- When set up Microsoft / did set up Microsoft?
- Who did telephone me / telephoned me this morning?
- Who you telephoned / did you telephone this morning?

Rearrange the words in each group from the list to make questions. Then match them to the answers below to make a complete dialogue.

- ~~you business here are~~ you did do that what before are for how you staying long
like what's it been how have long there you working arrive did when you you what do do
to is first this Lyon your visit staying you where are involve travelling job does much your
- 1 A: Are you here on business? 6 A:
B: Yes, I'm here on a sales trip. B: No, I've been here once before.
- 2 A: 7 A:
B: I work for a small biotech company. B: A couple of days ago.
- 3 A: 8 A:
B: About four years, I suppose. B: Until Friday, then I go back to the UK.
- 4 A: 9 A:
B: I was in pharmaceuticals. B: At the Holiday Inn.
- 5 A: 10 A:
B: Yes, quite a lot. I travel all over Europe, but especially in France. B: It's very comfortable actually, and the restaurant is good.

Exercise 6 B C E

Complete the dialogue with question words and question phrases from the list below.

- ~~what kind of~~ how often how far how long how many how much
what (x2) which (x2) whose
- SAM: So, tell me about your new job. (1) What kind of work is it?
JOE: It's in sales, like my last job, but it's a bigger company.
- SAM: Really? (2) people work there?
JOE: I suppose there's about 60 people in our office.
- SAM: Oh, yeah. And (3) holiday can you take a year?
JOE: Twenty-four days a year plus public holidays.
- SAM: Oh, that's much better than your last job. And (4) is it from your home?
JOE: Well, it's really not that far and I don't have to catch the train to work every morning, which is great.
- SAM: Oh, lucky you. So, (5) does it take you to get to work in the morning now?
JOE: About 20 minutes by car.
- SAM: Wow. It sounds perfect. (6) time do you start work in the mornings?
JOE: About nine. But sometimes I have to go on sales trips at the weekends as well.
- SAM: Oh? (7) idea was that?
JOE: I don't know, it's just something you have to do.
- SAM: And (8) do you have to do it?
JOE: About once a month I think. They're going to give me a company car.
- SAM: Really? (9) model are they going to give you?
JOE: A Golf. I think – and I can choose the colour.
- SAM: Oh, and (10) colours are there?
JOE: Well, I can choose between black and dark blue.
- SAM: Only two! So, (11) one do you prefer?
JOE: Well, dark blue sounds better than black.
- SAM: Hmm, yeah. Well, congratulations, I'm sure you'll do really well.

Write negative questions from the words in brackets. In each situation you are surprised.

- 1 A: We won't see Ann this evening.
B: Why not? (she / not / come / to the party?) Isn't she coming to the party?
- 2 A: I hope we don't meet Brian tonight.
B: Why? (you / not / like / him?)
- 3 A: Don't go and see that film.
B: Why not? (it / not / good)
- 4 A: I'll have to borrow some money.
B: Why? (you / not / have / any?)

A

When we ask for information, we often say **Do you know...? / Could you tell me...? /** etc. If you begin a question like this, the word order is different from a simple question.

Compare:

Where has Tom gone? (simple question)

but Do you know where Tom has gone? (not 'Do you know where has Tom gone?')

When the question (Where has Tom gone?) is part of a longer sentence (Do you know...? / I don't know... / Can you tell me...? etc.), it loses the normal question word order.

Compare:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|--|
| • What time is it? | <i>but</i> | Do you know what time it is? |
| • Who is that woman? | | I don't know who that woman is. |
| • Where can I find Linda? | | Can you tell me where I can find Linda? |
| • How much will it cost? | | Have you any idea how much it will cost? |

Be careful with do/does/did questions:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|---|
| • What time does the film begin? | <i>but</i> | Do you know what time the film begins? |
| • What do you mean? | | (not 'Do you know what time does...?')
Please explain what you mean. |
| • Why did Ann leave early? | | I wonder why Ann left early. |

Use if or whether where there is no other question word (what, why etc.):

- Did anybody see you? *but* Do you know if (or whether) anybody saw you?

B

The same changes in word order happen in **reported** questions:

- direct** The police officer said to us, 'Where are you going?'
reported The police officer asked us where we were going.
direct Clare said, 'What time do the banks close?'
reported Clare wanted to know what time the banks closed.

In reported questions, the verb usually changes to the past (were, closed). See Unit 46.

E Indirect questions

- We can be more polite or tentative by beginning a question with a phrase like *Do you know*, *Do you think/feel*, *Do you mind telling me*, *Could you tell me*, *Could I ask you*, 'I'd like to know I was wondering'.

Do you feel this rise in interest is a result of increased recruiting? Can you give me Yale's profile for the Class of '99 (the minority, non-US female)? Also, you mentioned that Yale has been working hard to strengthen its interview program. Could you tell me a bit more about what the school is doing on that front? (Business Week website)

- The word order of an indirect question is like a normal statement.
direct: **Could you call me a taxi?** indirect: *Do you think you could call me a taxi?*
- direct: **How old are you?** indirect: *Could I ask you how old you are?*
- Where there is no question word or modal verb we use *if* or *whether*.
direct: **Does Jane still work here?** indirect: *Do you know if Jane still works here?*

F Prepositions in questions

- The preposition comes in the same place as in a statement, following the main verb, and this is often at the end.
Who are you waiting for?
What are you looking at?
Where do you come from?
What were they talking about in the meeting?

Exercise 3 E

Underline the correct words.

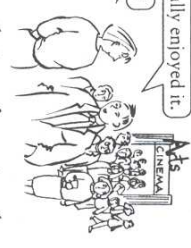
- Could you tell me what are your terms of payment/your terms of payment are?
- Do you know where the marketing seminar is/is the marketing seminar?
- I o like to know how can we/we can finance this project.
- Could I ask you why you left/did you leave your last job?
- Do you think could !!! could use your fax machine?

Question tags (do you? isn't it? etc.)

Study these examples:

You haven't seen Mary today, have you?
 'No, I'm afraid not.'

It was a good film, wasn't it?
 'Yes, I really enjoyed it.'



Have you? and wasn't it? are **question tags** (= mini-questions that we often put on the end of a sentence in spoken English). In question tags, we use an auxiliary verb (have/was/will etc.). We use **do/does/did** for the present and past simple (see also Unit 50):

- 'Karen plays the piano, doesn't she?' 'Well, yes, but not very well.'
- 'You didn't lock the door, did you?' 'No, I forgot.'

Normally we use a **negative** question tag after a **positive** sentence:

positive sentence + **negative tag**
 Mary will be here soon, won't she?
 There was a lot of traffic, wasn't there?
 Jim should pass the exam, shouldn't he?

...and a **positive** question tag after a **negative** sentence:

negative sentence + **positive tag**
 Mary won't be late, will she?
 They don't like us, do they?
 You haven't got a car, have you?

Notice the meaning of **yes** and **no** in answer to a negative sentence:

- You're not going out today, are you? { Yes. (= Yes, I am going out) / No. (= No, I am not going out)

The meaning of a question tag depends on how you say it. If your voice goes **down**, you aren't really asking a question; you are only inviting the listener to agree with you:

- 'It's a nice day, isn't it?' 'Yes, lovely.'
- 'Tim doesn't look well today, does he?' 'No, he looks very tired.'
- She's very pretty. She's got beautiful eyes, hasn't she?
- 'You haven't seen Mary today, have you?' 'No, I'm afraid not.'
- (= Have you seen Mary today by any chance?)

We often use a **negative sentence** + **positive tag** to ask for things or information, or to ask somebody to do something. The voice goes **up** at the end of the tag in sentences like these:

- 'You haven't got a pen, have you?' 'Yes, here you are.'
- 'You couldn't do me a favour, could you?' 'It depends what it is.'
- 'You don't know where Karen is, do you?' 'Sorry, I've no idea.'

After Let's... the question tag is ... shall we?:

- Let's go for a walk, shall we?

After the imperative (Do... / Don't do... etc.), the tag is usually ... will you?:

- Open the door, will you?
- Don't be late, will you?
- I'm late, aren't I?

EXERCISES

51.1 Put a question tag on the end of these sentences.

1 Tom won't be late, will he?	No, he's never late.
2 You're tired, aren't you?	Yes, a little.
3 You've got a camera, ...?	Yes, why? Do you want to borrow it?
4 You weren't listening, ...?	Yes, I was!
5 Sue doesn't know Ann, ...?	No, they've never met.
6 Jack's on holiday, ...?	Yes, he's in Portugal.
7 Ann's applied for the job, ...?	Yes, but she won't get it.
8 You can speak German, ...?	Yes, but not very fluently.
9 He won't mind if I use his phone, ...?	No, of course he won't.
10 There are a lot of people here, ...?	Yes, more than I expected.
11 Let's go out tonight, ...?	Yes, let's.
12 This isn't very interesting, ...?	No, not very.
13 I'm too impatient, ...?	Yes, you are sometimes.
14 You wouldn't tell anyone, ...?	No, of course not.
15 Listen, ...?	OK, I'm listening.
16 I shouldn't have lost my temper, ...?	No, but never mind.
17 Don't drop that vase, ...?	No, don't worry.
18 He'd never met her before, ...?	No, that was the first time.

51.2 Read the situation and write a sentence with a question tag. In each situation you are asking your friend to agree with you.

- You look out of the window. The sky is blue and the sun is shining. What do you say to your friend? (beautiful day) ... *It's a beautiful day, isn't it?*
- You're with a friend outside a restaurant. You're looking at the prices, which are very high. What do you say? (expensive) It ...
- You've just come out of the cinema with a friend. You really enjoyed the film. What do you say to your friend? (great) The film ...
- You and a friend are listening to a woman singing. You like her voice very much. What do you say to your friend? (a lovely voice) She ...
- You are trying on a jacket. You look in the mirror and you don't like what you see. What do you say to your friend? (not / look / very good) It ...
- Your friend's hair is much shorter than when you last met. What do you say to her/him? (have / your hair / cut) You ...
- You and a friend are walking over a wooden bridge. It is very old and some parts are broken. What do you say? (not / very safe) This bridge ...

51.3 In these situations you are asking for information and asking people to do things. Make sentences like those in Section C.

- You need a pen. Perhaps Jane has got one. Ask her. ... *Jane, you haven't got a pen, have you?*
- Jack is just going out. You want him to get you some stamps. Ask him. ...
- You're looking for Ann. Perhaps Kate knows where she is. Ask her. ...
- Kate, you ...
- You need a bicycle pump. Perhaps Helen has got one. Ask her. ...
- Helen, ...
- You're looking for your keys. Perhaps Robin has seen them. Ask him. ...

Translate the following sentences into English:

Nemůžu ti říct, proč bude zítra v práci málo zaměstnanců.

O čem jste včera s Janou tak dlouho hovořili?

Jakým nápojům dáváš přednost, kávě nebo čaji?

Rád bych věděl, jestli bude letos tuhá zima.

Ten dopis ještě nedorazil, že?

Kolik předmětů jsi už absolvovala?

Kdo ti ukradl ty hodinky, nové auto a peněženku?

Měl jsem se včera učit na ten test, že ano?

S kolika lidmi jste včera večer večeřeli?

Marie si nemusela půjčovat tu knihu v knihovně, protože ji měla doma, že?

Co ti v poslední době bylo ukradeno z auta?

Jakým druhem dopravy jste se sem dostali?

Mary a Luke ještě nepřišli na večírek, že?

Tvoje mladší sestra nesmí chodit spát příliš pozdě, že ne?

Proti které nadnárodní organizaci protestuješ?