



## Word order in negative sentences

The word order in negative sentences is the same as in positive sentences. **Auxiliary verbs** are usually needed in negative sentences.

*Examples:*

We **do not** want to go to the cinema tonight.

Roger Federer **did not** play very well at the French Open last year.

I think she **will not** be in England next week.

## Word order in questions

- **Yes/No questions** ask if something is true or not.

*Examples:*

Did you go out last night?

Can he dance?

Have you bought some fruit?

Were the builders working here all day?

The first words in questions are auxiliary verbs or the verb “to be”.

- **Wh-questions** ask for information. They always start with a wh-word.

*Examples:*

Who can you talk to about your course? What do you want to ask?

When did your visitors arrive? How did they get here?

Where have you been? Why did you leave so suddenly?

Which exercise are you doing?

- **Subject and object questions**

In most wh-questions the wh-word is the OBJECT of the verb. We use the question word order.

object	auxiliary v.	subject	verb		object
What	would	you	like	to tell	me?
What	has	Fred	done?		

**Who, what, which** and **whose** can be the SUBJECT of the verb. We use the statement word order.

subject	verb	object	adverbial/object	ANSWER
Who	built	the Gherkin	in London?	Norman Foster.
What	has	crashed?		My computer.
Whose	car	hit	the gate?	Jack's.

Compare these subject and object questions and answers:

**Who** invited Mary? **Jim** invited Mary. ☞ **subject**

**Who** did Jim invite? Jim invited **Mary**. ☞ **object**

**If we use a verb + preposition in a wh-question, we usually put the preposition at the end of the question:**

Who has John talked to? Which hotel did they stay at?

!!! With *when* and *where*, we don't usually use a preposition:

Where did they stay? (NOT: Where did they stay at?)

## PRACTICE

### 1. Arrange the words to make sentences (positive or negative).

- 1) in Greece / spend / I / will / next year / my holiday
- 2) play / in the bar / did / he / last week / not / the piano
- 3) wrote / last Wednesday / they / at school / a test
- 4) give / the present / tomorrow / we / him / will
- 5) not / the truth / did / he / tell / you
- 6) must / at five o'clock / leave / we / the house
- 7) feed / you / my / cat / can
- 8) the library / take / I / the book / will / today / to
- 9) to a party / not / we / tonight / going / are
- 10) tonight / want / to the cinema / to go / we

### 2. Transform these sentences into *yes/no questions*.

- 1) He loves this town.
- 2) They went to the swimming pool.
- 3) Students have to revise their lessons.
- 4) She wastes her money on jewellery.
- 5) The form should be sent back to this address.

### 3. Ask for the bold part of the sentence.

- 1) We go to Egypt **because it is warm there**.
- 2) Peter runs with his dog **every day**.
- 3) They watched the match **last night**.
- 4) The teacher checked **our homework**.
- 5) **We** ate fish in Croatia.
- 6) Laura has stopped **at the corner**.
- 7) They will clean **their room** this weekend.
- 8) The king built the monument **for his wife**.
- 9) Sara has bought **five** books.
- 10) **My car** is broken.

