

1 A

G revision: question formation
V working out meaning from context
P intonation, stress, and rhythm in questions

Q and A

1 GRAMMAR revision: question formation

a Complete the following questions with one or two question words or an auxiliary verb.

- 1 How much do you earn?
- 2 Are you married?
- 3 _____ have you been learning English?
- 4 _____ do you prefer, small towns or big cities?
- 5 _____ do you go to the theatre a year?
- 6 _____ tall are you?
- 7 _____ religion are you?
- 8 _____ you want to have children?
- 9 _____ of music do you listen to?
- 10 _____ advice do you listen to most?
- 11 _____ you ever said 'I love you' and not meant it?
- 12 _____ did you vote for in the last election?

b Cross (X) the questions above which you wouldn't ask a person you don't know very well. Are there any questions which you would not even ask a good friend? Which questions might you expect to find in a magazine interview with a famous person?

c Read the two interviews. Which question is...?
 the most personal the most boring the most original

d Read the interviews again and write N (Norah) or L (Lionel).

Who...?

- 1 never has enough time for what he / she wants to do _____
- 2 has happy childhood memories _____
- 3 avoids answering one of the questions _____
- 4 feels guilty about something _____
- 5 is probably a fan of the Rolling Stones _____
- 6 is very proud about something _____
- 7 says he / she is an insecure person _____
- 8 needs help in his / her daily life _____

e In pairs, look at questions 8–12 in the Lionel Richie interview. Find an example of...

- 1 a question where an auxiliary verb has been *added* to make the question.
- 2 a question where there is no auxiliary verb.
- 3 a question which ends with a preposition.
- 4 a negative question.
- 5 a question where the auxiliary verb and subject have been inverted to make the question.

f  **p.132 Grammar Bank 1A**. Read the rules and do the exercises.

Young star, old star

Every week the British newspaper, *The Guardian*, chooses people who have been in the news recently, and publishes a short interview with them called Q&A. The questionnaire often includes quite personal questions.

Q&A Norah Jones



Norah Jones was born in New York and is the daughter of the Indian sitar player and composer Ravi Shankar and the concert promoter Sue Jones; her half-sister is the musician Anoushka Shankar. A singer-songwriter, her debut album *Come away with me*, sold more than 20 million copies worldwide and won her five Grammy Awards.

- 1 **Where would you like to live?**
Barcelona.
- 2 **What do you most dislike about your appearance?**
I am too short. I am 5ft 11in (155cm).
- 3 **Who would play you in the film of your life?**
Maybe Christina Ricci.
- 4 **What's your favourite smell?**
Onion, garlic, and butter cooking in a pan.
- 5 **What's your favourite word?**
'No'.
- 6 **Which living person do you most despise, and why?**
No comment.
- 7 **What single thing would improve the quality of your life?**
Probably a housekeeper.
- 8 **Who would you invite to your dream dinner party?**
All my friends and Keith Richards – I think he'd be great at a dinner party.
- 9 **What's the worst job you've done?**
A waitress job where I had the breakfast shift. It wasn't the job that was so bad, just the hours. I had to go in at five in the morning.
- 10 **If you could go back in time, where would you go?**
Summer camp in Michigan, aged 14.
- 11 **How do you relax?**
A hot bath.
- 12 **What keeps you awake at night?**
Music. A song will keep going round in my brain and keep me awake.

From *The Guardian*



Q&A Lionel Richie

Lionel Richie was born in Alabama, USA. He became famous in the 1970s as lead singer with The Commodores and again in the 1980s as a solo singer. He is best remembered for songs like *Three Times a Lady*, *Allnight long*, and *Say you (say me)*, for which he won an Oscar.

- 1 What's your idea of perfect happiness?
Sunday by the pool, no phone calls.
- 2 What's your earliest memory?
My first day at pre-school. I was terrified. I'd never seen that many children in my whole life.
- 3 What's your most treasured possession?
My Oscar.
- 4 If you could edit your past, what would you change?
The Commodores never did a farewell tour. We just broke up and disappeared.
- 5 What has been your most embarrassing moment?
Forgetting the lyrics to my new single on a TV show.
- 6 What words or phrases do you most overuse?
'I'll call you back' or 'I'll see you soon'.
- 7 What's the most important lesson life has taught you?
Don't trust the smile, trust the actions.
- 8 What don't you like about your personality?
I'm an egotistical maniac with an inferiority complex.
- 9 What makes you depressed?
That there are 24 hours in a day and I need 36.
- 10 When did you last cry and why?
At the funeral of Milan Williams of The Commodores.
- 11 Who would you most like to say sorry to?
To my kids for not being there more.
- 12 What song would you like to be played at your funeral?
Allnight long and Stevie Wonder's *I just called to say I love you*.

2 PRONUNCIATION intonation, stress, and rhythm in questions

Using the right intonation or tone helps you to sound friendly and interested when you speak English. Stressing the right words in a sentence helps you speak with a good rhythm. Intonation + stress = the music and rhythm of English.

- a ¹¹ Listen to questions 1–8. In which one does the speaker sound more friendly and interested? Write a or b.
1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ 5 ___ 6 ___ 7 ___ 8 ___
- b ¹² Listen and underline the stressed words in these questions.
- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 What's your favourite <u>kind</u> of music? | 5 How long have you been living here? |
| 2 Have you ever been to a health club? | 6 What are you thinking about? |
| 3 How often do you go away at the weekend? | 7 Are you a vegetarian? |
| 4 Do you know what's on TV tonight? | 8 What do you do to relax? |
- c Listen again and repeat the questions in b. Try to sound as friendly as possible. Then ask each other the questions.

3 SPEAKING

- a Look at the answers other celebrities gave to some other questions in *The Guardian* interview series. In pairs, try to guess what the original questions were.

<p>La Sagrada Familia basilica in Barcelona.</p> <p>1 Natalie Imbruglia, singer and actress</p>	<p>When England went out of the World Cup.</p> <p>2 Danny Jones, from the band McFly</p>	<p>For the Labour party.</p> <p>3 Martin Freeman, actor</p>
<p>Paris in the first decade of the 20th century.</p> <p>4 William Boyd, writer</p>	<p>Going from many where back to Copenhagen.</p> <p>5 Helena Christensen, top model</p>	<p>Flying, especially since 9 / 11.</p> <p>6 Shanay Lewis, singer from All Saints</p>

- b Now choose six questions from the interviews to ask a partner. Only ask questions which you would be comfortable to answer yourself.