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First Class
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How to ask a question

A question is a sentence, phrase, or word that asks for information or is used to test someone's knowledge. A question is an utterance which typically functions as a request for information, which is expected to be provided in the form of an answer. The main types of questions are:

1. “Yes/No” Questions

A *Yes/No Question* is a question that can be answered with *yes* or *no*.

They normally begin with an auxiliary verb or a modal verb.

Yes / No questions are also called **closed questions** because there are only two possible responses: **Yes** or **No**. When forming a *Yes / No* question, it must include one of these verbs: BE, DO, HAVE, or a modal verb. It is impossible to ask a *Yes / No* question without one of these verbs. *Do you want to come?*

Have you seen her?

Can you come?

Will they be interested?

Did he have an accident?

How to form yes/no questions

The basic structure for yes/no questions looks like this:

[Auxiliary Verb] + [Subject] + [Main Verb] + [Object or Other Information] + ?

1. If the main verb of the sentence is To be, simply invert the subject and the verb: Examples

He is the headmaster of the school.

Is he the headmaster of the school? Yes, he is./ No, he is not.

They are American. Are they American? Yes, they are./ No, they are not.

2. If the sentence includes a main verb and an auxiliary verb, invert the subject and the auxiliary verb. Examples

- She can speak several languages. Can she speak several languages? Yes, she can./ No, she can't.

- I have got two brothers. Have you got two brothers? Yes, I have./ No, I haven't.

They are visiting Paris. Are they visiting Paris? Yes, they are./ No, they aren't.

3. If the sentence includes a verb which is not the verb To be and doesn't include an auxiliary verb, the transformation is more complex:

a) If the verb is in the present tense, add either do or does and put the main verb in its base form: Examples

I like apples. Do you like apples? Yes, I do./ No, I don't.

He hates basketball. Does he hate basketball? Yes, he does./ No, he doesn't.

b) If the verb is in the past tense, add did and put the main verb in its base form: Examples

He discovered the truth. Did he discover the truth? Yes, he did./ No, he didn't.

She wrote a nice essay. Did she write a nice essay? Yes, she did./ No, she didn't.

c) If the verb is in the future tense, add will and put the main verb in its base form: Examples

He will go to University in three years. Will he go to University in three years?
Yes, he will./ No, he won't.

d) If the verb is in the perfect tense, add has / have and put the main verb in its past participle : Examples

I have begun the meeting yet,. Have I begun the meeting yet ? Yes, I have./ No, I have not.

2 . Tag Questions

This is the second type of question we'll look at today. We use tag questions to ask for confirmation. They mean something like: "Is that right?" or "Do you agree?" They are very common in English. They come at the end of a statement.

The basic structure of a tag question is:

positive statement	negative tag
Snow is white,	isn't it?

negative statement	positive tag
You don't like me,	do you?

Notice that the tag repeats the auxiliary verb (or main verb when *be*) from the statement and changes it to negative or positive.

Positive tags

Remember: a negative sentence asks for a positive tag. **Read more about the difference between simple past and present perfect here.**

Verb Tense	Negative Sentence	Positive Tag
To Be	He isn't American,	is he?
Simple Present	Lucy doesn't like to drive,	does she?
Simple Past	Kelly didn't go to class,	did she?
Past Continuous	Paul wasn't cooking dinner,	was he?
Present Perfect	You haven't been to Canada,	have you?
Future (Will)	She will not come to the party,	will she?
Future (Going to)	Joanna isn't going to the doctor tomorrow,	is she?
Modal Verbs	Julie can't drive,	can she?

Negative tags

Remember: a positive sentence asks for a negative tag.

Verb Tense	Positive Sentence	Negative Tag
To Be	Sarah is tall,	isn't she?
Simple Present	They like pizza,	don't they?
Simple Past	They went to the party,	didn't they?
Past Continuous	They were making pizza,	weren't they?
Present Perfect	He has worked there for 5 years,	hasn't he?
Future (Will)	We will go home,	won't we?

Future (Going to)

They are going to Paris,

aren't they?

Modal Verbs

He can speak English,

can't he?

Exceptions

. When a sentence starts with *I am*, the question tag must be *aren't I*?

If you use the first-person singular in the present tense (read: ***I am***) for the sentence part of your question tag, you should use *aren't I* as the tag. Take a look at this sentence:

- I am late, aren't I?

3. "Wh-" Questions

These are called "wh-" questions because they usually start with a question word that begins with the letters "wh." Sometimes they're also called "*open questions*." That's because there are many more possible answers than just yes/no.

Wh-Questions are also called *Information Questions* because we are trying to get some specific information from another person (not just a 'Yes' or 'No' answer).

Below is a list of question words and example sentences:

Question words	Question words	Question words
Who	Used to ask about people	- Who do you love the most in your family? - Who told you that story?
What	Used to ask about things	- What are you doing? - What do you think about the movie?
When	Used to ask about time	- When will the meeting start? - When are you leaving?
Where	Used to ask about places	- Where's my bag? - Where do you live?
Why	Used to ask about reasons/ causes	- Why did it happen? I didn't understand.

		- Why is he crying?
How	Used to ask about manner/ process	- How can you explain this problem? Please tell us. - How did you make the cake?

How to form WH-questions?

1. With an Auxiliary Verb

Wh- Questions are formed with these structures:

wh- word + an **auxiliary verb** (*be, do or have*) + **subject** + **main verb**

*Be: When **are** you leaving?*

*Do: Where **do** they live?*

*Have: What **has** she done now?*

2. Without any auxiliary

(when WH-words replace subjects already)

Wh-word + main verb ...?

- What happened to Peter?
- A bad accident happened to him today.
- Who won the game?
- Ali won the game.
- Who gave you this present?
- My cousin gave me this present.

How to make a question?

He lives in a big house.(Where)

Where does he live?

They like him because he is always friendly. (Why)

Why do they like him?

I saw her yesterday.(When)

When did you see her?