

TYPES OF QUESTIONS

1 Wh-Questions: Or Question word questions, the answer to the question is '**Information**'

STRUCTURE: Question word + helping verb (auxiliary verb) + subject + main verb

Question Word	Auxiliary Verb	Subject	Main Verb	Answer Information	
Where	do	you	Live?	In Paris.	
When	will	we	have	lunch?	At 1pm.
Exception: Verb to be simple present and simple past					
Where			is	Bombay?	In India.
How			was	she?	Very well.

USAGE:

“**What**” is used to ask about general information: What is your address? 123, King Street...

It is also used to ask about actions: What are you doing? I am watching TV.

“**What kind of**” is used to ask about specific information: What kind of car did you buy? I bought a Ford.

“**What... for**” is used to ask about purpose: What are you here for? I'm here to tell you the whole truth.

“**What... like**” is used to request for description (things and people): What does he look like? He is tall with short black hair and mustache,

“**What and how**” are used to ask about measurements: (age/depth/ height / length/width)

What is the weight of the package? How heavy is it? It is about 5 kilos in weight.

**In conversation it would be more usual to say: How old/ deep/ high/ tall/ long / wide?*

Why is used to ask about the reason for or purpose of something: Why did you do that? To take revenge.

Where is used to ask about place: Where does he live? He lives in Newtown.

Which is used to ask about choice from a limited number: Which button do I press? The red one.

Who is used to ask about the name, identity or function of one or more people: Who is that woman? She is Mrs Keaton, the new headmistress.

Whom (formal) is used instead of 'who' as the object of a verb or preposition: Whom did they invite? They invited both of us. / To whom should I write? To the editor.

When is used to ask about time: When did you arrive? I arrived at 5 pm.

Whose is used in questions to ask who something belongs to (possessions): Whose house is that? It's the mayor's.

How is used to ask about the way or the manner: How do you get to the town from here? I get to the town by bus.

-To ask about somebody's health /feeling: How is she feeling? She is feeling better.

-To ask for description: How was your trip? It was very exciting.

How can be used with:

- Adjectives:** *How* far is the next garage? It is about half a mile.
- Much and many:** *How* much money have you spent? We have spent \$1000.
- How* many children does he have? He has two children.
- Adverbs:** *How* often do you go swimming? Twice a week.

2 Auxiliary Questions (Yes/No Questions): The answer to the question is 'Yes' or 'No'

STRUCTURE: Auxiliary verb + subject + main verb

Auxiliary verb	Subject	Main verb		Answer
Do	you	like	chocolate?	Yes, I do.
Have	you	seen	Tom ?	No, I have not.
Exception: for the verb to be in simple present and simple past tenses we do not use an auxiliary verb. We simply reverse the positions of to be and the subject:				
Statement	he	is	German.	
Question	is	he	German?	Yes, he is.

USAGE

- Can** is used to ask about ability: *Can* you swim? Yes, I can.
- Could** (past of can): *Could* he play the piano when he was younger? Yes; he could.
- Will** is used to ask about the future: *Will* you go to the beach tomorrow? No, I won't (will not)
- Would** past of will: *Would* he come if I invited him? Yes, he would.
- Shall** future (/we): *Shall* we meet this afternoon? No, we shan't (shall not).
- Should** is used to ask for advice: *Should* I call him and apologize? Yes, you should.
- Must** is used to ask if something is necessary or very important (Sometimes involving a rule or a law):
Must we finish this today? Yes, we must.
- (TO BE) Is / are / was / were:** *Is* he English? No, he is not. / *Were* they playing? Yes, they were.
- (TO DO) Do / does / did:** *Do* you smoke? Yes, I do. / *Did* he see you? No, he did not.
- (TO HAVE) Have / has / had:** *Have* you found a flat? No, I haven't. / *Has* she phoned? No, she hasn't.

3 Choice Questions: The answer to the question is '*in the question*'.

STRUCTURE

Auxiliary verb	Subject	Main verb		Or		Answer
Do	you	want	tea	or	coffee?	Coffee, please.
Will	we	meet	John	or	James?	John.
Did	she	go	to Rome	or	Madrid?	She went to Rome.
Exception: verb to be simple present and simple past.						
	Is	his car	white	or	Black?	It's black.
	Were	they	\$15	or	\$50?	\$15.

4 Question Tags / Tag Questions:

The tag question in English is a phrase added to the main part of the sentence, inviting the listener to confirm or give an opinion about the comment. It is composed of two parts: the auxiliary verb, determined by the principal verb, in negative form (or affirmative if the principal verb is negative), followed by the pronoun, determined by the subject.

A. After positive statements we use the negative particle not: {Statement} + {auxiliary/modal} + [not] + {subject}

-You are happy now, aren't you? / That is Tom, isn't he?

B. After negative statements we use the ordinary interrogative: You did not see him, did you? / Ann can't swim, can she?

Examples:

- **The continuous tenses use "be":** You were fishing yesterday, weren't you? / I'm doing this correctly, aren't I? (Irregular)
- **The simple tenses use "do":** You went to the cinema yesterday, didn't you? / She likes me, doesn't she?
- **The perfect tenses use "have":** He's never been out of the country, has he? : I've been accepted, haven't I?

• **The modals stay the same:** They shouldn't make that strange noise, should they? / We'll see you tomorrow, won't we?

C. Statements containing words such as {neither, no (adjective), none, no one, nobody, nothing, scarcely, barely, hardly, hardly ever, seldom} are treated as negative statements and followed by an ordinary interrogative tag:

No money is required, is it? / Nothing happened, did it? / Tom hardly ever goes to parties, does he?

D. When the subject of the sentence is {anyone, anybody, no one, nobody, none or neither}, we use the pronoun they as subject of the tag:

I don't think anyone will come, will they? / No one would object, would they? / Neither of them complained, did they?

We use Question Tags in three ways:

1. To verify information; when we are fairly certain of a fact and just want to check it, we can use a question tag:
2. To ask someone to do something; often this is used when we want someone to agree with what we say:
3. To show surprise in a negative way when we cannot really believe something is true we use this only in negative sentences:

• **After let's... , offers and suggestions we use shall:** Let's go, shall we?

• **After imperatives we use will/would/ can/ could:** Leave us for a moment, would you?

5 Negative Questions:

USAGE

A. to ask for information: Who hasn't got a ticket?

B. to make suggestions: Why don't we have a party?

C. to express surprise: Haven't you finished yet?

D. to ask for confirmation: Isn't he the famous actor?

E. with a falling intonation, for exclamations: Didn't she do well!

6 Direct & Indirect Questions:

1- We can ask a direct question:

-What time is it?

Or, to be more formal or polite, we can ask an indirect question:

-Do you know what time it is?

2- We make an indirect question by using a phrase, a question word and then a statement.

Note that even though this is a question, we do not invert the subject.

And verb or use an auxiliary verb:

{*Indirect phrase*} + {*question word*} + {*statement*}

-Can you remember where you put the keys? / -Do you know how long *the flight will be*?

3- When the question can be answered with yes or no, we use if:

{*Indirect phrase*} + *if* + {*statement*}

-Would you ask him if the train has arrived yet? / -Could you tell me if this is Athens station?

7 Rhetorical Questions:

1- Questions that do not expect an answer

Questions do not always ask for information. In many languages, including English, a question with an obvious answer can be used simply as a way *of drawing attention to something*. Questions of this kind are called '*rhetorical questions*'

-Do you know what time it is? (= You are late.)

- What's the use of asking her? (= It's no use asking her.)
- How do you expect me to find milk now? (= There aren't any shops open.)
- Where's my money? (= You haven't paid me.)

2- Negative yes/no questions

Negative yes/no questions often suggest a positive situation.

- Haven't I done enough for you? (= I have done enough for you/
- Didn't I tell you it would rain? (= I told you ...)
- Don't you care what I do? (= You should ..)

Exercise 01: Choose the type of question of each of the following questions.

- 1- Would you know the answer to this?
- 2- Did you find it easy or difficult?
- 3- Which sport do you prefer?
- 4- Will you go by bus or by train?
- 5- How long has Harry been waiting?
- 6- Are you hungry?
- 7- Where do you work?
- 8- Have they come from Italy or Spain?
- 9- Whose house is that?
- 10- Is that man the new English teacher?

Exercise 02: Give the correct tag question of the following sentences.

- 1- Luciano Pavarotti is a great singer, _____?
- 2- It isn't very cold today, _____?
- 3- Ms. Patton assigns a lot of homework, _____?
- 4- It has hardly rained all this winter, _____?
- 5- The children won't want to go to bed early, _____?
- 6- You have already seen "Braveheart", _____?
- 7- The movie received several Oscars? _____?
- 8- We can't keep our dog in the hotel room, _____?
- 9- Nobody asked questions, _____?
- 10- I am right, _____?

Exercise 03: Ask questions which the words in bold answer.

- 1- The headmaster of our school is **Mr. Smith**.
- 2- I went to **the theatre** yesterday.
- 3- I am going to France **to work**.
- 4- I studied in Japan **for 5 years**.
- 5- I prefer **the blue** one (jacket).
- 6- He is **repairing his car**.
- 7- Fred will come **at 6 o'clock**.
- 8- Helen went to London **yesterday**.
- 9- Paul wrote to **his friends**.
- 10- This book costs **fifty Dollars**.
- 11- He took **his friend's** book.
- 12- I'm feeling **better** now.

ANSWER KEY

Exercise 01:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Yes/No Question	Choice Question	Wh- Question	Choice Question	Wh- Question	Yes/No Question	Wh- Question	Choice Question	Wh- Question	Yes/No Question

Exercise 02:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
isn't he?	is it?	doesn't she?	has it?	will they?	haven't you?	didn't it?	can we?	did they?	aren't I?

Exercise 03:

- 1- Who is the headmaster of our school?
- 2- Where did you go yesterday?
- 3- Why are you going to France?
- 4- How long have you studied in Japan?
- 5- Which jacket do you prefer?
- 6- What is he doing?
- 7- What time will Fred come?
- 8- When did Helen go to London?
- 9- To whom did Paul write to?
- 10- How much does this book cost?
- 11- Whose book did he take?
- 12- How are you feeling now?