

## Questions 1

A

In questions the subject is usually after the first verb:

*subject + verb*

verb + subject

|           |      |   |      |            |
|-----------|------|---|------|------------|
| Tom       | will | → | will | Tom?       |
| you       | have | → | have | you?       |
| the house | was  | → | was  | the house? |

- ☐ **Will Tom** be here tomorrow?
- ☐ **Have you** been working hard?
- ☐ When **was the house** built?

The subject is after the *first* verb:

- ☐ **Is Katherine** working today? (*not Is working Katherine*)

B

In *present simple* questions, we use **do/does**:

you live → **do** you **live**?  
the film starts → **does** the film **start**?

- ☐ Do you **live** near here?
- ☐ What time **does** the film **start**?

In *past simple* questions, we use **did**:

you sold → **did** you **sell**?  
the train stopped → **did** the train **stop**?

- ☐ Did you **sell** your car?
- ☐ Why **did** the train **stop**?

But do not use **do/does/did** if **who/what** etc. is the subject of the sentence. Compare:

**who** *object*

Emma phoned somebody .

object

Who **did** Emma **phone**?

**who** *subject*

Somebody phoned Emma.

*subject*

## Who **phoned** Emma?

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

- ☐ **Who wants** something to eat? (*not* Who does want)
- ☐ **What happened** to you last night? (*not* What did happen)
- ☐ **How many people came** to the party? (*not* did come)
- ☐ **Which bus goes** to the centre? (*not* does go)

C

In questions beginning **who/what/which/where**, prepositions (**in, for** etc.) usually go at the end:

- ☐ **Where** are you **from**?
- ☐ **Who** do you want to speak **to**?
- ☐ **What** was the weather **like**?
- ☐ **Which** job has Tina applied **for**?

You can use *preposition* + **whom** in formal style:

- ☐ **To whom** do you wish to speak?

D

**isn't it ...? / didn't you ...?** etc. (negative questions)

We use negative questions especially to show surprise:

- ☐ **Didn't you** hear the doorbell? I rang it three times.

or when we expect the listener to agree with us:

- ☐ **'Haven't we** met before?' 'Yes, I think we have.'

Note the meaning of **yes** and **no** in answers to negative questions:

- ☐ ‘Don’t you want to go?’ { ‘Yes.’ (= Yes, I want to go)  
‘No.’ (= No, I don’t want to go)

We often use negative questions with **Why ...?**:

- ☐ **Why don't we** eat out tonight? (*not* Why we don't eat)
- ☐ **Why wasn't Emma** at work yesterday? (*not* Why Emma wasn't)

## Exercises



JOE

## 49.1 Ask Joe questions.

- 1 (where / live) Where do you live?
- 2 (born there?) .....
- 3 (married?) .....
- 4 (how long?) .....
- 5 (what / do?) .....
- 6 (what wife / do?) .....
- 7 (children?) .....
- 8 (how old?) .....

In Manchester.  
No, I was born in London.  
Yes.  
17 years.  
I'm a journalist.  
She's a doctor.  
Yes, two boys.  
12 and 15.

49.2 Make questions with **who** or **what**.

- 1 Somebody hit me.
- 2 I hit somebody.
- 3 Somebody paid the bill.
- 4 I'm worried about something.
- 5 Something happened.
- 6 Diane said something.
- 7 This book belongs to somebody.
- 8 Somebody lives in that house.
- 9 I fell over something.
- 10 Something fell off the shelf.
- 11 This word means something.
- 12 Sarah was with somebody.
- 13 I'm looking for something.
- 14 Emma reminds me of somebody.

Who hit you?  
Who did you hit?  
Who .....  
What .....  
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.....  
.....

## 49.3 Put the words in brackets in the correct order.

- 1 (when / was / built / this house?) When was this house built?
- 2 (how / cheese / is / made?) .....
- 3 (why / Sue / working / isn't / today?) .....
- 4 (what time / arriving / your friends / are?) .....
- 5 (why / was / cancelled / the meeting?) .....
- 6 (when / invented / paper / was?) .....
- 7 (where / your parents / were / born?) .....
- 8 (why / you / to the party / didn't / come?) .....
- 9 (how / the accident / did / happen?) .....
- 10 (why / happy / you / aren't?) .....
- 11 (how many / speak / can / languages / you?) .....

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

- 1 A: We won't see Lisa this evening.  
B: Why not? (she / not / come / out with us?) Isn't she coming out with us?
- 2 A: I hope we don't meet Luke 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?) .....