

WORKSHEET – QUESTION FORMATION

a We usually make questions by changing the word order: we put the *auxiliary verb (AV)* before the *subject (S)*: $S + AV \quad AV + S$

S	+	AV		AV	+	S		
it		is	→	is		it?		Is it raining?
you		can	→	can		you?		When can you come and see us?
Tom		has	→	has		Tom?		Where has Tom gone?

We make questions with the verb **be in the same way:**

they were → were they? **Were they surprised?**

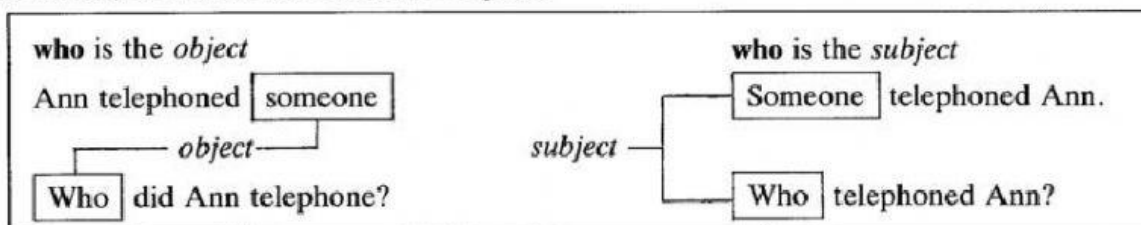
b In *simple present* questions use **do/does**:

- **Do you like music?** (*not like you*) ■ **Do you have a light?**
- **Where does Jack live?** (*not where lives Jack*)

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

- When **did they get** married? (*not* when got they)
- Why **did Ann** sell her car? (*not* why sold Ann)
- **Did you** have a good time?

But be careful with **who/what/which** questions. If **who/what/which** is the *subject* of the sentence, do not use **do/does/did**. Compare:



In these examples **who/what/which** is the *subject*:

- **Who wants** something to eat? (*not who does want*)
- **Who invented** the steam engine? (*not who did invent*)
- **What happened** to you last night? (*not what did happen*)
- **Which switch operates** this machine? (*not which switch does operate*)

C We use negative questions especially:

To show surprise:

- **Didn't you hear the bell?** I rang it four times.

In exclamations:

- **Doesn't that dress** look nice! (= that dress looks nice)

When we expect the listener to agree with us:

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

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

- **Didn't Dave pass his exams?** — **Yes.** (= Yes, he passed them.)
— **No.** (= No, he didn't pass them.)

Note the word order in negative questions with **Why ... ?**:

- **Why didn't you lock the door?** (*not why you didn't lock*)
- **Why don't we go out to eat?** (*not why we don't go*)
- **Why can't you help me?** (*not why you can't help me*)
- **Why wasn't Mary invited to the party?** (*not why Mary wasn't*)

1. ASK QUESTION ABOUT ED AND LIZ

Example: (Ed and Liz / be / married?) *Are Ed and Liz married?* "Yes, they are."

1. (where / Ed and Liz live?) "In Detroit."
2. (how long / they / be / married?) "15 years."
3. (what / Liz do for a living?) "She's a math teacher."
4. (she / like being a teacher?) "Yes, she does."
5. (what / Ed do for a living?) "He's a police officer."
6. (he / enjoy his job?) "Yes, very much."
7. (he / arrest anyone yesterday?) "No."
8. (they / have / a car?) "Yes."
9. (when / they / buy it?) "A year ago."
10. (they / go / on vacation next summer?) "Yes."
11. (where / they / go?) "To Florida."

2. THIS TIME MAKE QUESTIONS WITH WHO OR WHAT.

Examples: "Somebody hit me." "Who *hit you*.....?"
"I hit somebody." "Who *did you hit*.....?"

1. "Something happened." "What?"
2. "Someone lives in that house." "Who?"
3. "Somebody gave me this key." "Who?"
4. "Henry gave me something." "What?"
5. "Tom meets someone every day." "Who?"
6. "I fell over something." "What?"
7. "Something fell on the floor." "What?"
8. "This word means something." "What?"

3. MAKE NEGATIVE QUESTIONS. EACH TIME YOU ARE SURPRISED

Example: "We won't see Ann this evening." "Oh! (she / not / come to the party tonight?)"
Isn't she coming to the party tonight?.....

1. "I hope we don't meet Brian tonight." "Why? (you / not / like him?)"
2. "I'll have to borrow some money." "Why? (you / not / have / any?)"
3. "Don't go and see that movie." "Why? (it / not / be / good?)"

4. MAKE NEGATIVE QUESTIONS WITH WHY...?

Examples: (I didn't lock the door.) *Why didn't you lock the door?*.....
(Mary wasn't invited to the party.) *Why wasn't Mary invited to the party?*.....

1. (I don't like George.) you?
2. (Jim wasn't at work today.) Why?
3. (I'm not ready yet.) Why?
4. (Sue doesn't eat fruit.)?
5. (Maria can't come to the meeting.)?

INDIRECT QUESTIONS

- a** When we ask people for information, we sometimes begin our question with **Do you know ... ?** or **Could you tell me ... ?**. If you begin a question in this way, the word order is different from the word order in a simple question:

Compare:	Where has Tom gone?	(simple question)
	Do you know where Tom has gone?	

When the question (**Where has Tom gone?**) is part of a bigger sentence (**Do you know ...**), it loses the normal question word order. Compare:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| ■ When will Ann arrive? | Do you have any idea when Ann will arrive? |
| ■ What time is it? | Could you tell me what time it is ? |
| ■ Why are you laughing? | Tell us why you are laughing. |

Be careful with **do/does/did** questions:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ■ When does the movie begin? | Do you know when the movie begins ? |
| ■ Why did Ann leave early? | I wonder why Ann left early. |

Use **if** or **whether** when there is no other question word:

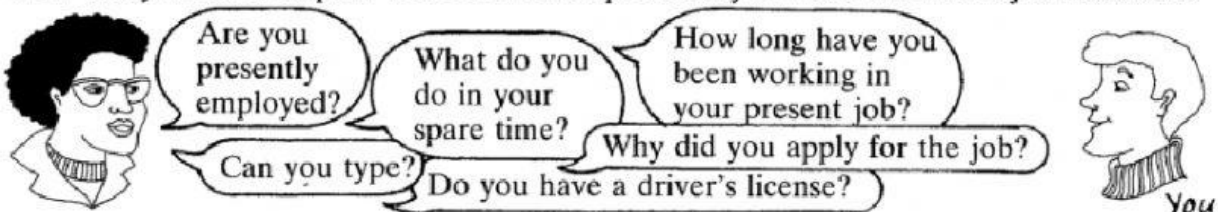
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|-------------------|--|
| ■ Did he see you? | Do you know if (or whether) he saw you? |
|-------------------|--|

- b** The same changes in word order happen in *reported* questions:

<i>direct</i>	The police officer said to us, "Where are you going ?"
<i>reported</i>	The police officer asked us where we were going .
<i>direct</i>	Tom said, "What time do the banks close ?"
<i>reported</i>	Tom wanted to know what time the banks closed .

In reported questions the verb usually changes to the past (**were, closed**). For more information about this see Unit 45.

Now study these examples. Here are some questions you were asked at a job interview:



Now you tell a friend (in reported speech) what the interviewer asked you:

- She asked (me) if **I was** presently employed.
- She asked whether (or if) **I had** a driver's license.
- She wanted to know whether (or if) **I could** type.
- She wanted to know how long **I had been** working in my present job.
- She asked (me) what **I did** in my spare time.
- She asked (me) why **I had applied** for the job. (or why **I applied**)

1. MAKE A NEW SENTENCE FROM THESE QUESTIONS.

Example: Where has Tom gone? Do you know *where Tom has gone*.....?

1. Where is the post office? Could you tell me
2. What does this word mean? Do you know
3. What time is it? I wonder
4. Where did you park your car? Can't you remember
5. Is Ann coming to the meeting? I don't know
6. Where does Jack live? Do you have any idea
7. What time did he leave? Do you know
8. Where can I change some money? Could you tell me
9. What qualifications do I need? I want to know
10. Why didn't Mary come to the party? I don't know
11. How much does it cost to park here? Do you know

2. YOU ARE MAKING A PHONE CALL. YOU WANT TO SPEAK TO SUE, BUT SHE ISN'T THERE. SOMEONE ELSE ANSWER THE PHONE. YOU WANT TO KNOW THREE THINGS. (1) WHERE HAS SHE GONE? (2) WHEN WILL SHE BE BACK? (3) DID SHE GO OUT ALONE? COMPLETE THE CONVERSATION.

1. "Do you know?" "Sorry. I have no idea."
2. "Never mind. I don't suppose you know " "No, I'm afraid I don't."
3. "One more thing. Do you happen to know?"
"I'm afraid I didn't see her go out."

3. YOU HAVE BEEN AWAY FOR A WHILE AND HAS JUST COME BACK TO YOUR HOMETOWN. YOU MEET JERRY, A FRIEND OF YOURS. HE ASK YOU LOTS OF QUESTIONS.

1. How are you?

5. Are you glad to be back?

6. Are you going away again?

2. How long have you been back?

7. Why did you come back?

3. What are you doing now?

8. Do you still smoke?

4. Where are you living?

9. Can you come to dinner on Friday?



Now you tell another friend what Jerry asked you. Use reported speech.

1. *He asked me how I was*.....
2. He asked me
3. He asked
4. He
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.