



38 Listen and repeat. Then act out.



## Yes/No Questions

Questions with Yes/No answers begin with an auxiliary or modal verb (is, are, do, does, have, has, can, must, will, etc.) We use **do/does** to form questions in present simple and **did** to form questions in past simple.

*She is studying. → Is she studying?*

*He hates bowling. → Does he hate bowling?*  
(NOT: ~~Does he hates bowling?~~)

*Kim left an hour ago. → Did Kim leave an hour ago?* (NOT: ~~Did Kim left an hour ago?~~)

## Wh- Questions

Wh- questions begin with a question word such as (who, what, where, why, when, whose, which, how, etc.). We put the auxiliary or modal verb before the subject.

**question word + auxiliary/modal + subject**  
*"What did you buy?" "A scarf."*

*"How do you get to work?" "By bus."*

When there is a preposition, it usually goes at the end of the question, though in formal English it can be put before the question word.

*Who is this letter from?* (more usual)

*From whom is this letter?* (formal)

We use questions to ask for *information* or *permission*. We also use questions to make *suggestions*, *requests*, *offers* or *invitations*.

**Asking for information:** "How much does it cost?" "£10."

**Asking for permission:** "May I use your phone?" "Of course you may."

**Making suggestions:** "Shall we have a party?" "Yes, let's."

**Making requests:** "Could you carry this for me, please?" "Yes, of course."

**Making offers:** "Would you like some orange juice?" "Yes, please."

**Making invitations:** "Would you like to spend this weekend with us?" "Yes, I'd love to."

## 1 First form questions, then write the speech situation for each question: asking for information/permission, or making suggestions/requests/offers/invitations.

- 1 (we invite/David to dinner tonight?) *Shall we invite David to dinner tonight? (suggestion).....*
- 2 (you want/a biscuit?) .....
- 3 (how far/it be from your house to the station?) .....
- 4 (you like/come sailing at the weekend?) .....
- 5 (I have/a look at your newspaper?) .....
- 6 (you like/come to the cinema?) .....
- 7 (you help/me with my bags, please?) .....
- 8 (we have/a party for your birthday?) .....
- 9 (who/you meet at the coffee shop yesterday?) .....

- We normally use the following question words to ask about:

people	things/animals/actions	place	time	quantity	manner	reason
Who	What		When	How much	How	Why
Whose	Which		How long	How many		
Which			What time			
What			How often			

- **Who** is used without a noun to ask about people. **Who** wrote "Gone with the Wind"?
- **Whose** is used to express possession. **Whose** gloves are these? They're Tony's.
- **Which** is used for people, animals or things alone or before nouns, one/ones or of. **Which** is their office? **Which** coat is his? I've got two dictionaries. **Which one** would you like to use? **Which of** these applicants will be called for an interview?
- **Which** is normally used when there is a limited choice of answers. **Which** is your favourite ice cream flavour – vanilla or strawberry? (there are only two kinds of ice cream flavours to choose from – limited choice)
- **Which** can also be used with the comparative and superlative. **Which** is **cheaper**, a saloon car or a convertible? **Which** is the easiest way to do it?
- **What** is used alone or before a noun to ask about things. **What** can I do for you? **What** size shoes do you wear? **What** is also used for people, animals and things when there is an unlimited choice of answers. **What** kind of films do you enjoy watching? (there are many films to choose from - unlimited choice)
- **What** can also be used in these patterns: **What ... like?** **What ... for?** **What colour?** **What size?** **What kind/sort?** **What time?** **What is he like?** **What is it used for?** etc. **What** are you waiting here for?
- **What + be ... like** asks for a description of someone's character; **what ... look like** asks for a description of physical appearance. **What** is Fiona like? She's kind and helpful. **What does** Fiona **look like**? She's tall and slim.
- **What** and **which** are sometimes both possible. **What/Which** subjects do you teach?
- **Where** is used to ask about a place. **Where** is my handbag? On your desk.
- **When** is used to ask about time. **When** is your birthday? On 3rd July.
- **Why** is used to ask about the reason why something happens/happened. **Why** are you happy? Because I got a new car.
- **How** is used alone or before an adjective/adverb. **How** was the party? Amazing. **How old** is Tanya? She's fifteen. **How fast** can your car go? Very fast.
- **How long** is used to ask about a time period. **How long** does it take you to get to work? Thirty minutes.
- **How often** is used to ask about frequency. **How often** do you play tennis? Twice a week.
- **How much** is used with uncountable nouns. **How much** flour do you need? Very little.
- **How many** is used with countable nouns. **How many** apples do you want? Two.

## 2

Fill in: **when, which, who, whose, what, how much, how often, what time, where or how long.**

- 1 A: .... **Who**... has been wearing my coat?  
B: Sue has.
- 2 A: .... **pencil case** is this?  
B: It's John's.
- 3 A: .... **one of you** is the tallest?  
B: I am.
- 4 A: .... **size** are your shoes?  
B: Size 5.
- 5 A: .... **did you go on holiday?**  
B: I went to the Caribbean.

- 6 A: .... **did you start French lessons?**  
B: Two years ago.
- 7 A: .... **have you lived in America?**  
B: Three years.
- 8 A: .... **do you go to the cinema?**  
B: About once a month.
- 9 A: .... **does the film start?**  
B: At 7 o'clock.
- 10 A: .... **cheese would you like?**  
B: 400 grams please.

3 Write questions to which the words in **bold** are the answers.

1 It costs **ten pounds**.  
*How much does it cost?*

2 Janet lives **in the centre of London**.

3 I wash my hair **three times a week**.

4 **Her friend** rented a new flat.

5 Ann is **friendly**.

6 **Mrs Brown** wants to see Sally.

7 The weather is **hot** today.

8 He has worked here **for twelve years**.

9 It takes **two hours** to get from here to London.

10 This CD costs **£9**.

4 Fill in: **which** or **what**.

Jane: 1) ..... **What** ..... shall we do this evening, Lisa?

Lisa: I'm not sure. Do you want to go to the cinema?

Jane: That's a good idea. But 2) ..... one – CineWorld or Cineplex?

Lisa: I really don't mind. 3) ..... one would you like to go to?

Jane: Well, it depends. 4) ..... films are they showing at the moment?

Lisa: I think CineWorld is showing the new James Bond film and Cineplex is showing Ben Stiller's new comedy.

Jane: Ben Stiller? 5) ..... does he look like?

Lisa: He's quite short with black hair. He was in *Tropic Thunder*.

Jane: Oh, I know him! So, 6) ..... would you prefer – an action film or a comedy?

Lisa: I think probably a comedy. 7) ..... about you?

Jane: Yes, I agree. Ben Stiller is always very funny.

Lisa: Great. Well, let's go to Cineplex then. 8) ..... time does the film start?

Jane: In half an hour. We'd better go soon.

Lisa: OK, let's go now. But 9) ..... is the quickest way to get there?

Jane: Well, we could take the train, but I don't know 10) ..... station to get off at.

Lisa: It's near Victoria Station. Don't worry; I know how to get there.

5 Write questions to which the words in **bold** are the answers.

**J.K. Rowling** is a British writer. She was born **near Bristol in England**. When she was young, Rowling loved **reading novels**. She studied **French** at university and worked as a teacher **in Portugal** for a short time. Then, **in 1990** she got the idea to write a novel about a young wizard called Harry Potter. Rowling's first book was called ***Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*** and was published in 1997. Since then, Rowling has written **six more Harry Potter books** and she is now one of the most successful writers in the world.

1 Who ..... *is a British writer?* .....

2 Where .....

3 What .....

4 What .....

5 Where .....

6 When .....

7 What .....

8 How many .....