

'Yes/no' questions

1 Here are some 'yes/no' questions:

Are you hungry?

Shall I answer the phone?

Did you enjoy the film?

We call them 'yes/no' questions because the answer is either 'yes' or 'no':

Are you hungry? Yes, I am.

No, I'm not.

2 We form 'yes/no' questions like this:

- ▶ We put the verb **be** before the subject:

be	+	SUBJECT
<i>Are</i>		<i>they busy?</i>
<i>Is</i>		<i>he ready?</i>
<i>Was</i>		<i>she here?</i>

- ▶ Or, we put an auxiliary verb (**be, have, will, shall, can, may, etc.**) before the subject:

AUXILIARY	+	SUBJECT	+	VERB
<i>Is</i>		<i>Mark</i>		<i>leaving?</i>
<i>Have</i>		<i>they</i>		<i>gone?</i>
<i>Will</i>		<i>they</i>		<i>win?</i>
<i>Can</i>		<i>you</i>		<i>sing?</i>

(For auxiliary verbs, see Unit 27.)

- ▶ With Present Simple verbs, we put **do** or **does** before the subject:

do	+	SUBJECT	+	VERB
<i>Does</i>		<i>she</i>		<i>work in Paris?</i>
<i>Do</i>		<i>they</i>		<i>live in New York?</i>
<i>Do</i>		<i>you</i>		<i>play tennis?</i>
<i>Does</i>		<i>he</i>		<i>like ice-cream?</i>

Note that we say:

Does she play tennis?

(NOT ~~*Does she plays tennis?*~~)

- ▶ With Past Simple verbs, we put **did** before the subject:

did	+	SUBJECT	+	VERB
<i>Did</i>		<i>she</i>		<i>visit Paris?</i>
<i>Did</i>		<i>he</i>		<i>go to Spain?</i>

3 Here are all the forms of **do** questions:

PRESENT SIMPLE

<i>Do</i>	<i>I/you/we they</i>	} <i>work?</i>
<i>Does</i>	<i>he/she/it</i>	

PAST SIMPLE

<i>Did</i>	<i>I/he/she/it/you/we/they</i>	<i>work?</i>
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Practice

A Make 'yes/no' questions from these statements.

- ▶ You are learning a language. *Are you learning a language?*
- 1 She is thirsty.
- 2 He can swim well.
- 3 They were tired after the match.
- 4 She will return to Mexico.
- 5 I may leave now.
- 6 They have all left.
- 7 We shall wait a little longer.

B Now make questions from these statements. Start your questions with **Do, Does** or **Did**.

- ▶ You listen to the radio. *Do you listen to the radio?*
- 1 They work in London.
- 2 She visits her uncle.
- 3 We began the course in March.
- 4 Her car goes very fast.
- 5 You bought a new table.

C You have met Jane, an English girl, in Paris. Use the words in brackets () to ask her some questions. Her answers are on the right. They will help you choose the right tense for your questions.

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| ▶ (like/it here) | You: <u>Do you like it here</u> ? | ~ Jane: Yes, I do. |
| ▶ (studying/French) | You: <u>Are you studying French</u> .. ? | ~ Jane: Yes, I am. |
| 1 (like/French music) | You: ? | ~ Jane: Yes, I do. |
| 2 (staying/in the centre) | You: ? | ~ Jane: No, I'm not. |
| 3 (come/by plane) | You: ? | ~ Jane: Yes, I did. |
| 4 (have got/a flat) | You: ? | ~ Jane: Yes, I have. |
| 5 (working/in Paris) | You: ? | ~ Jane: No, I'm not. |
| 6 (visited/the museums) | You: ? | ~ Jane: Yes, I have. |
| 7 (find/your flat easily) | You: ? | ~ Jane: No, I didn't. |
| 8 (like/French food) | You: ? | ~ Jane: Yes, I do. |

D You want to study English in London. You telephone a language school to ask some questions. Put the words in brackets () in the right order to make questions.

- ▶ (of London? – Is – near the centre – the school) Is the school near the centre of London?
- 1 (homework? – give – Do – the teachers)
- 2 (the classes – small? – Are)
- 3 (organize – trips? – Does – the school)
- 4 (a certificate – I get – Will – at the end of the course?)
- 5 (a place now? – I – reserve – Shall)
- 6 (pay – I – Can – by credit card?)

E David has just spent a week on holiday in Greece with his wife Mary. Ask him some questions about his holiday using words and phrases from the box. Use his answers to help you.

Did	Was	the sea	Mary	enjoy	comfortable?
Did	Was	the airport	Mary	busy?	the beaches?
Did	Was	the restaurants	learn	expensive?	any Greek?
Were	the hotel	you	like	warm?	the holiday?

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| ▶ You: <u>Did Mary enjoy the holiday?</u> | ~ David: Yes, she had a good time. |
| 1 You: | ~ David: Yes, there were thousands of people at the airport. |
| 2 You: | ~ David: Yes, the water was very warm. |
| 3 You: | ~ David: No, they were quite cheap. |
| 4 You: | ~ David: No, it's a difficult language for me. |
| 5 You: | ~ David: Yes, she swam and sunbathed every day. |
| 6 You: | ~ David: Yes, it was a lovely hotel. |