12 Questions / Short Answers

Subject/Object Questions

Subject questions are questions we ask when we want to know about the subject of the sentence. These questions usually begin with the words who, what or which. The verb is in the affirmative form.

Object questions are questions we ask when we want to know about the object of the sentence. These questions usually begin with the words who, whose, what or which. The verb is in the interrogative form.

Note: In object questions, if a verb is followed by a preposition, the preposition usually comes at the end of the question. *Who did you talk **to**? Where do you come **from**?*

subject	object	subject	object
Keith	*invited Stella.*	***Stella***	*invited* ***Fiona.***
Who invited *Stella? (NOT: ~~Who did invite Stella?~~)*		***Who did*** *Stella* ***invite?***	

If who, which or what are the *subject* of the question, the word order is the same as in statements (subject questions). If they are the *object* of the question, the verb is in question form (object questions).

6 Write questions to which the words in bold are the answers.

1 *Who left the window open?*
Josh left the window open.

2 .....
Chris saved **a little girl**.

3 .....
Jenny likes Spain.

4 .....
Jack shouted at **Jim**.

5 .....
Jane saw the postman.

6 .....
Shakespeare wrote **Hamlet**.

7 .....
Sally hates **strawberries**.

8 .....
Keith's new house is very big.

9 .....
Terry drove **a tractor**.

10 .....
Jane sent Paul **a letter**.

11 .....
The whale lives in the ocean.

12 .....
Jack has read the newspaper.

13 .....
Maria opened **the window**.

14 .....
Ann's new mobile phone is very expensive.

7 Use the prepositions in brackets to write questions to match the statements.

1 Fred is very unhappy.
What *is he unhappy about?* **(about)**

2 I went to the cinema last night.
Who ..... **(with)**

3 My grandfather comes from France.
Where exactly ..... **(from)**

4 Craig had an argument.
Who ..... **(with)**

5 My brother's going on holiday tomorrow.
Where ..... **(to)**

6 I bought a book yesterday.
What ..... **(about)**

7 I got a letter today.
Who ..... **(from)**

8 I fixed the shelf today.
What ..... **(with)**

9 Tina is excited.
What ..... **(about)**

10 Terry doesn't live alone.
Who ..... **(with)**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

8 Complete the questions.

1 A major earthquake hit San Francisco in 1906.
   a What *hit San Francisco in 1906*.....?
   A major earthquake.
   b What *city did a major earthquake hit in 1908*.....? San Francisco.

2 Sarah donates money to a charity every year.
   a What.....? Money.
   b Who.....? Sarah.

3 Leonard found Rachael's purse.
   a Whose.....?
   Rachael's.
   b What.....?
   Rachael's purse.

4 Peter visited Laura last weekend.
   a Who.....? Peter.
   b Who.....? Laura.

9 Fill in: *who*, *what* or *which*.

A: 1) *What* is the best way to get to France from London?
B: Well, it depends. 2) ..... type of journey do you want?
A: A cheap one! But I've got a friend who gets seasick.
B: Don't go on the ferry then! There's a train or a hovercraft – or you could fly of course.
A: 3) ..... is the cheapest?
B: The train and the hovercraft cost about the same but I'm not sure 4) ..... is the most comfortable. Of course, the train takes you straight to Paris.
A: Really? To 5) ..... station?
B: La Gare du Nord I think, but I don't know 6) ..... the arrival times are.
A: 7) ..... could give me that information?
B: Try ringing the Tourist Office.

10 In teams or in pairs, ask and answer questions based on the text.



A farmer, Isaac Jones, reported having seen a UFO. A journalist from the local newspaper interviewed him. Isaac was sleeping in his bed when at around 4 am he was suddenly woken up. The sky lit up and a strong wind blew against his bedroom window. Then an object that looked like a huge plate appeared in the sky. Isaac was shocked and started screaming. He thought the world was being invaded by Martians! Then, all of a sudden, the plate left. It all lasted five minutes, but Mr Jones's wife, Mary, didn't wake up at all. She thinks that her husband just had a nightmare. She told the journalist that Mr Jones should be more worried about the dirty plates in their kitchen sink than alien plates in the sky!

A: What is Isaac Jones's job?
B: He is a farmer.
A: Who interviewed him?
B: A journalist from the local newspaper.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

12 Questions / Short Answers

Indirect Questions

- **Indirect questions are used when we ask for information politely. They are introduced with Do you know ...?, Can/Could you tell me ...?, Have you any idea ...? + question word or if/whether.** ***Do you know how*** *old Sam is?* ***Could you tell me how long*** *it takes to get there?* ***Have you any idea when*** *she is leaving?* ***Do you know if/whether*** *there are any vacancies here?*
  a) Direct question: *Where is the bank?* **Indirect question:** *Could you tell me* ***where the bank is****?*
  b) Direct question: *Has Tom been invited to the party?* **Indirect question:** *Do you know* ***if/whether Tom has been invited to the party****?*
- **The word order of indirect questions is the same as in statements (subject + verb).**
  Can you tell me ***where you saw him****? (NOT: Can you tell me where ~~did you see~~ him?)*
  Do you know ***whether they are getting married****? (NOT: Do you know whether ~~are they getting~~ married?)*
  How far ***did they travel****? → Do you know how far* ***they travelled****?*
  When ***do you plan*** *to move? → Can you tell me when* ***you plan*** *to move?*

11 Turn the following into indirect questions.

1 What flavour is this drink?
Can *you tell me what flavour this drink is?*
2 Why isn't Bob here yet?
Do .....
3 What is the price of this car?
Could .....
4 Has the film started yet?
Could .....
5 What time does the last bus leave?
Can .....
6 What does 'laconic' mean?
Have .....
7 How much does Steve earn?
Do .....
8 Did they appear in court?
Have .....
9 What is the capital of Austria?
Do .....
10 Where did I put my keys?
Have .....

Negative Questions

- **Negative questions are formed with not but there is a difference in word order between the short and full form.**
  (Short form) ***Didn't*** *they inform you?* ***Haven't*** *they returned yet?* (auxiliary + n't + subject + verb)
  (Full form) ***Did they not*** *inform you?* ***Have they not*** *returned yet?* (auxiliary + subject + not + verb)
  We normally use the short form in everyday speech and the full form only for emphasis.
- **Negative questions are used to express:**
  a) surprise ***Don't you*** *know who Pelé is?*
  b) annoyance/sarcasm ***Can't you*** *keep quiet for a second?*
  c) expectation of a 'Yes'-answer ***Don't you*** *think she's rather mean?*
  d) wish to persuade sb ***Won't you*** *tell me who did it?*

12 Write the short form of the following negative questions.

1 Has he not handed in his essay yet?
Hasn't he handed in his essay yet?
2 Does he not come to football practice any more?
.....
3 Can Kate not ride a bicycle?
.....
4 Does she not understand the question?
.....
5 Do you not know how to send an email?
.....
6 Did he not give you directions to the house?
.....
7 Have we not got any biscuits left?
.....
8 Could you not find anything you liked?
.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

13 In the following dialogues, make negative questions using the words given and decide if the expected response would be *Yes* or *No*, as in the example.

1 A: You're late! *Didn't you set your alarm clock?* ..... **(set your alarm clock)**
B: *Yes* ....., but I missed the bus.
2 A: That was John on the other side of the road. ..... **(notice him)**
B: ....., I can't see a thing without my glasses.
3 A: You've been going to the gym for weeks now. ..... **(lose any weight)**
B: ....., I don't know what I'm doing wrong.
4 A: You aren't wearing a coat! ..... **(be cold)**
B: ....., I'm used to weather like this.
5 A: Your mother is a Maths teacher. ..... **(help you)**
B: ....., but I still can't understand Maths at all.
6 A: Why can't you come out tonight? ..... **(do/homework)**
B: ....., but there's a TV programme I want to watch.
7 A: Why haven't you called Jane? ..... **(have her number)**
B: ....., but I've been too busy to call.
8 A: Why didn't you go to Cornwall this year? ..... **(want to go)**
B: ....., I wanted to go somewhere different.
9 A: This cake is delicious. ..... **(give me the recipe)**
B: ....., I'm afraid it's a family secret.
10 A: I don't believe it! ..... **(know who Eminem is)**
B: ....., but I haven't heard this song before.

14 Fill in the correct questions and verb forms.

A: Hello, Mrs Williams. This is Donna, Kate's friend from university.
B: Oh, hello, Donna. How have you been?
A: Very well, thanks. I wanted to ask you about Kate. Is she arriving home from Japan today?
B: Yes, she is. We are all looking forward to seeing her.
A: Me too! 1) *Which airport is she arriving at* ..... **(which/airport/arrive at)**?
B: Heathrow Airport.
A: 2) ..... **(what time/expect)** her to land?
B: About 8 tonight if there are no delays.
A: OK. And 3) ..... **(who/collect)** her?
B: Nobody, dear. She's planning on taking the bus. 4) ..... **(why/ask)**?
A: I'd like to meet her at the airport. 5) ..... **(what/think)** about that?
B: That's a great idea; it would be such a nice surprise for her. But 6) .....
..... **(how/get)** there?
A: My dad will drive me. I can't wait to see her!
B: That's wonderful! She'll be delighted.

LIVEWORKSHEETS