QUESTION FORMS

Before we look at the structure of questions, let's review the structure of a sentence.

S → V → O.

I am from the US.

Matias lives in Punta Alta.

Peggy likes coffee.

Max studies medicine.

They are kind people.

Alejo is 30 years old.

He is a geologist.

This is the same for all verbs.

The structure of a question depends on two things: the type of question that it is and the verb involved.

- There are two basic types of questions: closed questions (which require a yes/no answer) and open questions (which require an informative answer).
- And there are two categories of verbs—*this is really easy!*—the verb *to be* and all of the others.[1]

Let's look at closed questions first… As mentioned, the structure of the question depends on the verb. If the verb is some form of *be*, you simply change/invert the order of the subject and verb. If the verb is not *be*, you must use an auxiliary verb. (The simple tenses use the auxiliary verb *do*; the continuous tenses use *be*; and the perfect tenses use *have*.) Look at the formulas below.

V = *be*	**V ≠ *be***
V → S → O?	**V^{aux} → S → V^{prin} → O?**
Are they late? (They are late.)	Do they drink tea? (They drink tea.)

V ≠ *be*
V^{aux} → S → V^{prin} → O?
Does he drink tea? (He drinks tea.)

[1] The verb *to be* is the most used verb in English. It can function as a main verb and as an auxiliary verb in 7 of the 12 verb tenses in English. If you master the verb to be, you have taken a huge step forward in English. Unfortunately, it is also the most irregular.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Knowing how to form closed questions makes forming open questions a piece of cake (or, as you say in Spanish, "una papa".) For information questions, the question form is the same as for yes/no questions but the interrogative comes at the beginning. Look at the chart.

V = *be*	**V ≠ *be***
Wh → V → S → O?	**Wh → V^{aux} → S → V^{prin} → O?**
Why are they late? (They are late.)	Do they drink tea? (They like tea.)

Here are more examples.

= *be*		**≠ *be***
The car is pink.	Is the car pink?	Why did they buy a pink car?
It is a platypus.	Is it a platypus?	What does a platypus eat?
They are your friends.	Are they your friends?	When do they want to play football?
We are Americans.	Are we Americans?	Where do you live?

One final note... In open questions, the auxiliary shows the tense, and the main verb is always in its simple form. For example: When **do** they **play** tennis? / When **did** they **play** tennis?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PRACTICE

Change the following sentences to yes/no questions. Use the formulas to guide you, if necessary. (With practice, you will memorize the formula.)

My sister **is** a chemist.

Mauricio **plays** roller hockey.

They **are** married.

Martin **likes** pizza.

Orense **is** near the beach.

Diego **has** a son.

You **wear** a uniform at work.

Yamana **is** a mining company.

Argentineans **drink** Fernet.

Argentineans **are** the only people in the world who like Fernet.

Now, change these sentences to information questions using the interrogative in parentheses.

Mary prefers wine. (why)

They are (*in the park*). (where)

They want to go to the beach. (when)

Doctors memorize tons of information. (how)

Bruno and Max play football. (where)

Mark is sad. (*why*)

Lou runs a marathon every month. (how)

Phillip likes to eat (snails). (what)

The team writes weekly reports for (*Walter*). (who)

We want to go to the cinema. (when)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

WOW TIME!

OK. Ready for a challenge? The chart below includes sample sentences for 9 of the 12 verb tenses in English. I know that you do not know all the tenses yet, but you can form questions in these tenses—*the power of a formula!*

	Yes/No Question Form	Open Question Form
The dog is hungry. present simple *be*		
Sebastian works there. present simple		
We were busy. past simple *be*		
Mary cooked last night. past simple		
Paul is riding his bike. present continuous		
Carla was reading. past continuous		
She will be at the party. future simple *be*		
Susan will finish the report. future simple		
He will have arrived by now. future perfect		
Bob has been to England. present perfect		
They had seen the movie. past perfect		

LIVEWORKSHEETS

HOMEWORK

	Yes/No Question Form	Open Question Form
That car is blue. present simple *be*		
Martiniano wants pizza. present simple		
She was late. past simple *be*		
Carla called last night. past simple		
Paul is surfing. present continuous		
Matt was cleaning. past continuous		
They will be on vacation. future simple *be*		
Emma will write an essay. future simple		
He will have arrived by now. future perfect		
George has traveled to Italy. present perfect		
We had watched the news. past perfect		

LIVEWORKSHEETS

FORMAS DE PREGUNTAS

Antes de ver la estructura de las preguntas, repasemos la estructura de una frase.

S → V → O.

I am from the US.

Matias lives in Punta Alta.

Peggy likes coffee.

Max studies medicine.

They are kind people.

Alejo is 30 years old.

He is a geologist.

Esto es lo mismo para todos los verbos.

La estructura de una pregunta depende de dos cosas: del tipo de pregunta que sea y del verbo que la forme. Hay dos tipos básicos de preguntas: las cerradas, que requieren una respuesta de sí/no, y las abiertas, que requieren una respuesta informativa. Y hay dos categorías de verbos—¡esto es muy fácil!—el verbo *be* y todos los demás.[2]

Veamos primero las preguntas cerradas... Como ya hemos dicho, la estructura de la pregunta depende del verbo. Si el verbo es alguna forma de *be*, simplemente se cambia/invierte el orden del sujeto y del verbo. Si el verbo no es *be*, debes usar un verbo auxiliar (los tiempos simples usan el verbo auxiliar *do*; los tiempos continuos usan *be*; y los tiempos perfectos usan *have*). Fíjate en las fórmulas siguientes.

V = *be*	**V ≠ *be***
V → S → O?	**V^{aux} → S → V^{prin} → O?**
Are they late? (They are late.)	Do they drink tea? (They drink tea.)

V ≠ *be*
V^{aux} → S → V^{prin} → O?
Does he drink tea? (He drinks tea.)

[2] El verbo to be es el más utilizado en inglés. Puede funcionar como verbo principal y como verbo auxiliar en 7 de los 12 tiempos verbales en inglés. Si dominas el verbo to be, habrás dado un gran paso adelante en inglés. Por desgracia, también es el más irregular.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Saber cómo se forman las preguntas cerradas hace que la formación de las preguntas abiertas sea una papa (o, como se dice en inglés, "a piece of cake"). Para las preguntas de información, la forma de la pregunta es la misma que para las preguntas de sí/no, pero el interrogativo va al principio. Fíjate en el siguiente cuadro.

V = *be*	**V ≠ *be***
Wh → V → S → O?	**Wh → V^{aux} → S → V^{prin} → O?**
Why are they late? (They are late.)	Do they drink tea? (They like tea.)

Aquí hay más ejemplos.

= *be*		**≠ *be***
The car is pink.	Is the car pink?	Why did they buy a pink car?
It is a platypus.	Is it a platypus?	What does a platypus eat?
They are your friends.	Are they your friends?	When do they want to play football?
We are Americans.	Are we Americans?	Where do you live?

Una nota final...

En las preguntas abiertas, el auxiliar muestra el tiempo, y el verbo principal está siempre en su forma simple. Por ejemplo: When **do** they **play** tennis? / When **did** they **play** tennis?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PRACTICE

Change the following sentences to yes/no questions. Use the formulas to guide you, if necessary. (With practice, you will memorize the formula.)

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Mark is sad. (*why*)

Lou runs a marathon every month. (how)

Phillip likes to eat (snails). (what)

The team writes weekly reports for (*Walter*). (who)

We want to go to the cinema. (when)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

MOMENTO de WOW!

OK. ¿Preparado para un reto? El siguiente cuadro incluye ejemplos de frases para 9 de los 12 tiempos verbales en inglés. Sé que aún no conoces todos los tiempos verbales, pero puedes formar preguntas en estos tiempos—*¡el poder de una fórmula!*

	Yes/No Question Form	Open Question Form
Sebastian works there. present simple		
Mary cooked last night. past simple		
Carla was reading. past continuous		
Paul is riding his bike. present continuous		
Susan will finish the report. future simple		
He will have arrived by now. future perfect		
Bob has been to England. present perfect		
They had seen the movie. past perfect		
The dog is hungry. present simple *be*		
We were busy. past simple *be*		
She will be at the party. future simple *be*		

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TAREA

	Yes/No Question Form	Open Question Form
That car is blue. present simple *be*		
Martiniano wants pizza. present simple		
She was late. past simple *be*		
Carla called last night. past simple		
Paul is surfing. present continuous		
Matt was cleaning. past continuous		
They will be on vacation. future simple *be*		
Emma will write an essay. future simple		
He will have arrived by now. future perfect		
George has traveled to Italy. present perfect		
We had watched the news. past perfect		

LIVEWORKSHEETS