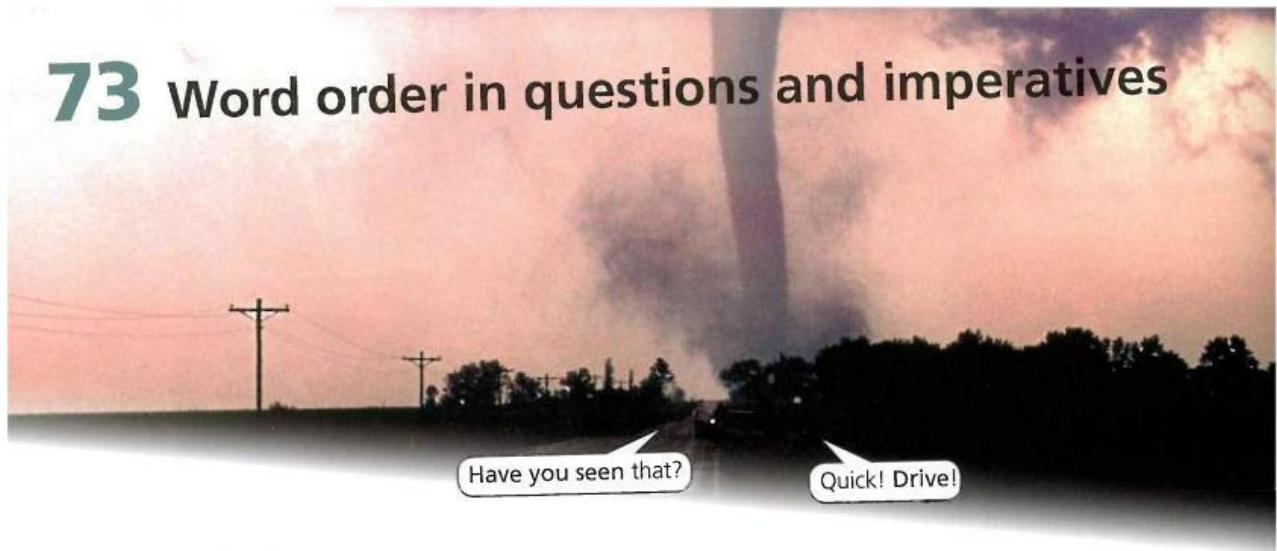


# 73 Word order in questions and imperatives



## 1 Questions

Question forms can be

- *be* + subject: *Are you happy? Was she late yesterday?*
- auxiliary/modal verb + subject + main verb: *Do you understand?*

Questions can also contain an object and other phrases. We usually put a question mark (?) at the end of a question.

| AUXILIARY / MODAL VERB | SUBJECT | MAIN VERB | OBJECT       |
|------------------------|---------|-----------|--------------|
| Can                    | she     | speak     | French?      |
| Did                    | it      | snow      | last winter? |

## 2 Imperatives

We use the infinitive form for imperatives. We use *don't* + infinitive to make a negative imperative. We sometimes put an exclamation mark (!) at the end of an imperative, to make it stronger.

| POSITIVE             | NEGATIVE                        |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Come in!</i>      | <i>Don't worry.</i>             |
| <i>Take a seat.</i>  | <i>Don't forget your keys!</i>  |
| <i>Stop talking!</i> | <i>Don't start writing yet.</i> |



✗ *You listen to me. I'm talking.* (This is not polite.)

✓ *Listen to me. I'm talking.*

We use imperatives to:

- give orders: *Stand up!*
- give instructions: *Mix the eggs and milk together.*
- give warnings: *Don't go out in this weather. It's horrible.*
- offer something: *Have a biscuit.*
- ask for something: *Pass the salt, please.*

In public signs, we don't use imperatives:

✗ *Don't smoke.*

✓ *No smoking*

✗ *Don't park.*

✓ *No parking*

## Practice

### 1 Write the words in the correct order to make questions or imperatives.

Write ? or ! at the end of each one.

- 0 that don't do ..... *Don't do that!* .....
- 1 sit there don't ..... .....
- 2 me that give knife ..... .....
- 3 want you do an apple ..... .....
- 4 see later me and come ..... .....
- 5 silly be don't so ..... .....
- 6 coming you the party to are ..... .....

### 2 There is a mistake in each sentence. Correct the mistakes.

- 0 You have a piece of cake. *Have a piece of cake.* .....
- 1 The cat's very gentle. Not to be afraid. .....
- 2 Passing me the dictionary, please. .....
- 3 Sign in exam room: no talk! .....
- 4 Not to use your father's computer! .....
- 5 Sign at swimming pool: don't dive! .....
- 6 You sit here next to me! .....

### 3 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the conversation with the verbs in brackets (). Decide whether the sentences should be questions or imperatives.

BRIAN Hi, Eva. Kerry and I are going to visit your home country and I ...

EVA You're going to visit Iceland – that's great! (0) ..... *Sit* ..... (sit) down!  
When (1) ..... (you / go)?

BRIAN We wanted to ask you. When are the best times to go, do you think?

EVA Well, (2) ..... (you / want) to go to festivals, or to travel around?

BRIAN Travel around, really.

EVA Well, (3) ..... (not / go) there in the winter! It's cold, it's rainy and it's dark nearly all the time.

BRIAN Mmm, (4) ..... (the summer / be) quite warm?

EVA Oh, yes, it can be very warm in July and August.

BRIAN (5) ..... (we / can see) any festivals then?

EVA Yes, (6) ..... (go) in June and spend two or three weeks there, and (7) ..... (make) sure you stay in Reykjavik on 17 June.

BRIAN Why (8) ..... (June / be) so good?

EVA Because it's light 24 hours a day in June; it's wonderful. Also, Iceland's Independence Day is on 17 June. It's a very good time to be in Reykjavik, but (9) ..... (book) a hotel!

BRIAN Thanks, Eva. That's really useful.

EVA You're welcome. Oh, another thing – (10) ..... (not / forget) your camera when you go – there's some wonderful scenery.

