

82 Subject and object questions



1 Subject questions

| SUBJECT | VERB | OBJECT |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Who | helped | Mandy? |
| What | happened? | |
| Which band | sang | 'Take me out'? |
| Whose mobile phone | has | an MP3 player? |
| How many friends | called | you? |

In subject questions, the *wh*- word is the subject of the verb.
The order of the question is subject + verb + object.

Notice the answer: *Who helped Mandy? Robin.* or *Robin did.*

2 Object questions

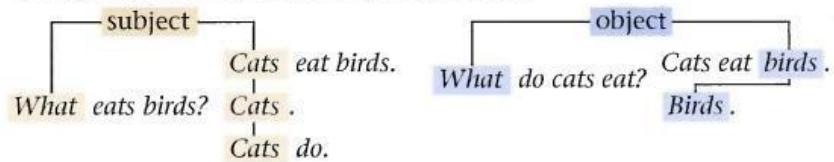
| OBJECT | AUXILIARY | SUBJECT | VERB (infinitive) |
|--------------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| Who | did | Robin | help? |
| What | do | you | do? |
| Which band | does | Alex Kapranos | sing with? |
| Whose mobile phone | has | the teacher | found? |
| How many friends | did | you | call? |

In object questions, the *wh*- word is the object of the verb.
The order of the question is object + auxiliary + subject + verb.

Notice the answer: *Who did Robin help? Mandy*

3 Subject and object questions

Compare these subject and object questions:



⚠ Don't confuse subject and object questions:

✗ *What means 'statement'?* ✓ *What does 'statement' mean?*

⚠ We use a singular verb after *who*, *what* and *whose* in subject questions:

✗ *Who live in that old house?* ✓ *Who lives in that old house?*

Practice

1 Choose the correct words in *italics*.

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 0 What <i>happened</i> / did happen last night? | I saw a robbery from my bedroom window. |
| 1 Who <i>robbed</i> / did rob the shop? | Two men. |
| 2 What <i>stole</i> they / did they <i>steal</i> ? | They stole several TVs. |
| 3 <i>What</i> / Who broke the window? | The robbers. |
| 4 Who <i>did you call</i> / <i>called you</i> ? | I called the police. |
| 5 Who <i>did you call</i> / <i>called you</i> ? | The shop manager called me. |
| 6 Who <i>recognised you</i> / <i>did you recognise</i> ? | I recognised one of the robbers. |

2 Match the questions 1 and 2 with the answers A and B.

| | |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 0 1 Who saw Amy? _____ | → A Matt saw Amy. |
| 2 Who did Amy see? _____ | → B Amy saw Matt. |
| 1 1 What do birds eat? | A Cats eat birds. |
| 2 What eats birds? | B Birds eat worms. |
| 2 1 How many people saw him? | A Ten people saw him. |
| 2 How many people did he see? | B He only saw one person. |
| 3 1 What book did Tolkien write? | A <i>Lord of the Rings</i> . |
| 2 Who wrote <i>Lord of the Rings</i> ? | B Tolkien. |
| 4 1 Who invited Isabel to the party? | A Isabel invited James. |
| 2 Who did Isabel invite to the party? | B Shelley invited Isabel. |
| 5 1 Whose cousin did you call? | A Mike's cousin called me. |
| 2 Whose cousin called you? | B I called Mike's cousin. |

3 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the police interview with questions from the box.

There are three extra questions.

which factory do you mean who saw you which factory makes cars
what happened whose face who heard you what did you see what did you frighten
what did you hear who did you see what are you frightened of

OFFICER So, Mr Lewis. (0) *What did you see* yesterday evening outside the club?

LEWIS Well, there was a fight, a big fight.

OFFICER (1) ?

LEWIS I'm not sure. I came out of the club to go home, and then I heard something ...

OFFICER (2) ?

LEWIS Someone was shouting, then I heard other voices, so I turned round and saw them ...

OFFICER Them? (3) ?

LEWIS The men who started the fight – the men from the factory. And I think they saw me.

OFFICER I'm sorry – (4) ?

LEWIS Those men. The men who work at the factory.

OFFICER (5) ?

LEWIS The car factory in Bolton. You see, I work there, too – and I saw his face!

OFFICER (6) ?

LEWIS My boss's face – he was there, he was in the fight, and now I'm really frightened.

OFFICER I'm not sure I understand – (7) ?

LEWIS Well, he knows I've told you everything. I'm frightened I'll lose my job.