

Reported questions, orders, requests

Use

To report what someone else asked/ordered/requested

Example

Pat asked me if I had tried the jeans on in the shop.

Form

Direct question/order/request

questions beginning with *have*, *do* or *be*
 'Have you **been** to the gallery?' he asked her.
 'Do you **want** a sweater?' my mum asked.
 'Are you **making** a skirt?' I asked Anne.

Reported question/order/request

He asked her **if** she **had been** to the gallery.
 My mum asked **if** I **wanted** a sweater.
 I asked Anne **if** she **was making** a skirt.

questions beginning with a modal
 'Can you **paint**?' Mary asked her friend.
 'Will you **make** me one?' I asked Terry.
 'Shall I **wear** a jacket?' I asked Mum.
 'May I **borrow** your coat?' Mr Jones asked me.

Mary asked her friend **if** he **could** paint.
 I asked Terry **if** he **would** make me one.
 I asked Mum **if** I **should** wear a jacket.
 Mr Jones asked me **if** he **might** borrow my coat.

questions beginning with a question word
 'What **kind of shoes** are in fashion now?' my mum asked me.
 'Who **did you see** at the fashion show?' asked Ben.
 'Which **one** do you want?' Sarah asked Liam.
 'When **will they finish** the house?' I asked.
 'Why **did you say that**?' my sister asked me.
 'How **much** did your hat cost?' Ed asked Carl.

My mum asked me **what** kind of shoes **were** in fashion at that moment.
 Ben asked **who** I **had seen** at the fashion show.
 Sarah asked Liam **which** one he **wanted**.
 I asked **when** they **would** finish the house.
 My sister asked me **why** I **had said** that.
 Ed asked Carl **how** much his hat **had cost**.

orders

'Put your clothes in the drawer,' Mum said.
 'Don't wear the red one,' Alice said.

Mum **told** me **to put** my clothes in the drawer.
 Alice **told** me **not to wear** the red one.

requests

'Will you **make** me one?' I asked Terry.
 'Please don't **move** my pictures,' said Olga.

I **asked** Terry **to make** me one.
 Olga **asked** me **not to move** her pictures.

Helpful hints

We can also use **whether** instead of **if** in reported questions.
 ✓ He asked her **whether** she had been to the gallery.



Remember not to use question word order in reported questions.

✓ I asked when **they would finish the house**.

✗ I asked when **would they finish the house**.

A Circle the correct answer.

- 1 'Has your brother gone out?' Mum asked me.
Mum asked me if my brother **has gone** / **had gone** out.
- 2 'Do you know the answer?' Miss Smith asked Ruby.
Miss Smith asked Ruby if she **knew** / **had known** the answer.
- 3 'Is this your car?' the police officer said to the man.
The police officer asked the man if it **is** / **was** his car.
- 4 'Have you been to see the exhibition?' I asked Benjamin.
I asked Benjamin if he **went** / **had been** to see the exhibition.
- 5 'Does your laptop need a new battery?' Jerry asked me.
Jerry asked me if my laptop **needed** / **will need** a new battery.
- 6 'Are you having a barbecue?' I asked the Browns.
I asked the Browns if they **were having** / **had been having** a barbecue.

B Write one word in each gap.

- 1 'Will you be at the party?' Richard asked me.
Richard asked me if I be at the party.
- 2 'May I ask you a few questions?' the woman asked Ted.
The woman asked Ted if she ask him a few questions.
- 3 'Can we go to the zoo tomorrow?' Jane asked her father.
Jane asked her father if they go to the zoo the following day.
- 4 'Shall I study maths or English?' Sally asked her best friend.
Sally asked her best friend whether she study maths or English.
- 5 'Can you write with your left hand?' Val asked me.
Val asked me whether I write with my left hand.
- 6 'Shall we play tennis or volleyball?' Debbie asked her sister.
Debbie asked her sister if they play tennis or volleyball.
- 7 'May I leave the table?' Samantha asked her parents.
Samantha asked her parents if she leave the table.
- 8 'Will our bus leave on time?' Mum asked the driver.
Mum asked the driver whether our bus leave on time.

C Complete each second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Write between two and five words.

- 1 'When did your brother join the army?' Rudy asked me.
Rudy asked me the army.
- 2 'How was your trip to Turkey?' I asked Katherine.
I asked Katherine how been.
- 3 'How will we find your keys in the dark?' Ashley asked Susie.
Ashley asked Susie keys in the dark.
- 4 'Why was Rob on TV?' Denise asked me.
Denise asked me on TV.
- 5 'Who saw you at the park?' the police officer asked me.
The police officer asked me at the park.
- 6 'Who did you see at the park?' the police officer asked me.
The police officer asked me at the park.

D Look at the pictures and complete the sentences.



- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 My mum told | 4 The parrot |
| 2 I | 5 Jenny's grandma |
| 3 The man | 6 The magician |

E Choose the correct answer.

- 'Could you pass me the salt, please?' I asked the man next to me.
I asked the man next to me me the salt.
A pass B if he passes C to pass
- 'Would you mind waiting a moment?' the shop assistant asked the woman.
The shop assistant asked the woman for a moment.
A to wait B waiting C she wait
- 'Please don't leave your dirty football boots in the hall,' Mum said to Doug.
Mum told Doug his dirty football boots in the hall.
A that he doesn't leave B not to leave C don't leave
- 'Could you tell us where you were at six o'clock?' the police officers asked Barry.
The police officers asked Barry he had been at six o'clock.
A telling them where B where he tells them C to tell them where
- 'Could I have your e-mail address?' I asked Mariella.
I asked Mariella e-mail address.
A to give me her B give me your C give me her
- 'Can I have a new Xbox for my birthday?' I asked my mum.
I asked my mum a new Xbox.
A that she get me B get me C to get me

F If the word or phrase in **bold** is correct, put a tick (✓). If it is wrong, write the correct word or phrase.

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|---|-------|
| 1 I asked Toni why had she taken my CD without asking me. | |
| 2 Roger told Isabelle don't make any plans for the weekend. | |
| 3 Madison asked me how much my new jeans had cost . | |
| 4 Alexander asked his dad giving him some money for his school trip. | |
| 5 I told Jeremy you don't move while I took his photograph. | |
| 6 Annie told her dog to sit , but it didn't. | |