

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.

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

- 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.