

72 Reported questions

- Reported questions have the same tense and word changes as reported statements.
- **For reported statements, see Units 68–70.**
- Common reporting verbs/phrases in questions are *ask* and *want to know*.
*They **asked** me what I was doing. She **wanted to know** where Jack was.*
- When we report a *yes/no* question, we use *if/whether* after the reporting verb:
*'Do you speak French?' → She asked me **if I spoke** French.*
*'Are you coming?' → He asked her **whether she was coming**.*
- When we report a *wh-* question, we use the question word: *'Where's the station?' → She wanted to know **where the station was**.*
- The word order in reported questions is the same as in statements. We don't use the auxiliary *do/does/did*: *'Where **are you going**?' → He asked me where **I was going**.* (Not *He asked me where **was I going**.*) *'Do you like swimming?' → She asked me **if I liked** swimming.* (Not *She asked me **did I like** swimming.*) *'What **do you want to do**?' → They asked me what **I wanted to do**.* (Not *They asked me what **did I want to do**.*)
- We don't use a question mark (?) in reported questions.

PRACTICE

72a Report the questions.

Yesterday Rob asked his friend Philip for advice about flats in London. Now he's telling another friend about their conversation.

- 'Is your room very expensive?'
I asked him *if his room was very expensive*
- 'Are you looking for somewhere cheap?'
He asked me
- 'Is your flat near the city centre?'
I asked him
- 'Can you get there easily?'
I wanted to know
- 'Does your flat have a washing machine?'
I asked him
- 'Was it very hard to find your room?'
I asked him
- 'Did you look at a lot of flats?'
I wanted to know
- 'Have you looked on the Internet?'
He asked me
- 'Would you like to stay with me for a few days?'
He asked me

72b Report the questions.

- o 'Where can I get some tissues?' she asked.
She asked *where she could get some tissues*
- 1 'When are you going to visit us?' he asked us.
He asked
- 2 'Why is everybody looking at me?' I asked.
I wanted
- 3 'What sports do you do at college?' Joe asked me.
Joe asked
- 4 'What has your brother decided to do?' I asked her.
I wanted
- 5 'How did you get to the beach?' I asked them.
I asked
- 6 'How long have you been here?' they asked us.
They asked
- 7 'Who won't be here next week?' the tennis coach asked.
The tennis coach wanted
- 8 'How much did you pay for your ticket?' she asked him.
She asked
- 9 'How often do your cousins stay with you?' I asked her.
I asked
- 10 'Where's Kate?' I asked.
I wanted

72c Read the questions from a survey. Then complete the e-mail.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| o How old are you? | 5 How many films do you see a month? |
| 1 Do you live with your parents? | 6 What kind of films do you like? |
| 2 How do you spend your free time? | 7 Do you do any sport? |
| 3 How often do you go out? | 8 Do you have any hobbies? |
| 4 Do you go to the cinema? | |

New Message

Last week I had a call from somebody who was doing a survey. It was quite interesting. She asked me (0) *how old I was* and (1) with my parents. She asked me (2) free time and (3) out. She also wanted to know (4) to the cinema and (5) a month. She was surprised when I said ten! Then she asked me (6) I said I liked everything! She also asked me (7) any sport and (8) any hobbies. I had to say no to both of those!