

Questions, question tags, indirect questions

Questions

Form

Normal main verbs	Simple tenses	• Do you feel cold? • Did they go shopping?
Continuous tenses		• Am I annoying you? • Were they waiting for you?
Perfect tenses		• Have you seen this film? • Had it started ?
Be as a main verb	• Am I late? • Were you all right? • Have you been ill?	
Have as a main verb	• Does she have a bath every day? • Did they have lunch at one o'clock?	
Modals	• Should I call the police? • Could you call me later?	
Question words	• Who was in prison? • What's your name? • Where do they live?	
	• Why did you do that?	

Watch out!

- To form questions in the passive, we put the auxiliary verb before the subject. If there is more than one auxiliary verb, only the first one goes before the subject.
- ✓ **Was Mr Jenkins arrested yesterday?**
- ✓ **Has Mr Jenkins been arrested?**
- With the question words **who** and **what**, we use **do** as an auxiliary verb if the question word refers to the **object** of the verb.
- ✓ **Who told you?** (= Someone told you. Who?)
- ✓ **Who did you tell?** (= You told someone. Who?)

Questions tags

Form

Use	Example
To ask someone to agree with us	It's confusing, isn't it?
To check whether something is true	You haven't been to prison, have you?
Normal main verbs	• Phil works here, doesn't he? • They didn't leave , did they?
Continuous tenses	• You are coming , aren't you? • They weren't looking , were they?
Perfect tenses	• They've gone , haven't they? • You hadn't seen it, had you?
Be as a main verb	• He's new here , isn't he? • You weren't old enough , were you?
Have as a main verb	• They have a car, haven't / don't they? • You didn't have a shower every day, did you?
Modals	• Jan should be here by now, shouldn't she? • You won't make a mess, will you?

Helpful hints

In sentences with **I am**, we use **aren't I?** In sentences with **I'm not**, we use **am I?**

✓ **I'm right, aren't I?** ✓ **I'm not stupid, am I?**

Watch out!

With **Let's**, we use **shall** in the question tag.

✓ **Let's do the washing-up later, shall we?**

Indirect questions

Form

Phrase + clause with normal word order

Use	Example
To ask questions politely	Can/Could you tell me where the bank is? Can/Could you let me know what time the film starts? Do you know if Alison lives there? I wonder if you could tell me where the toilets are. I wonder if you know how much this costs.

Watch out!

We don't use question word order in the second half of the sentence.

A The words and phrases in **bold** in each sentence are wrong. Write the correct word or phrase.

- 1 Does Debbie **likes** Greek food?
- 2 Did Anne and Carlo **went** to Spain last year?
- 3 **Was** Dawn and Jennifer with you?
- 4 **Has** **Claudia** a haircut every Thursday?
- 5 Have you **buy** the new *Arctic Monkeys*' CD yet?
- 6 **Does** Tim going to be in the school play?
- 7 **It would be** the best thing to do?
- 8 Were you **play** basketball when it started snowing?

B Write one word in each gap.

Rachel: Hi, Ben! (1) are you?

Ben: I'm fine. (2) you hear about Mr Watkins, the maths teacher?

Rachel: No. (3) happened to him?

Ben: He fell out of the window of his classroom!

Rachel: (4) pushed him?

Ben: No one!

Rachel: So how (5) it happen?

Ben: He was sitting on the windowsill and he just fell backwards!

Rachel: Oh dear! Poor Mr Watkins. (6) he hurt?

Ben: No. Luckily his classroom is on the ground floor.

Rachel: That's lucky! (7) you there at the time?

Ben: Yes! We were having a maths lesson.

Rachel: So (8) did you all do?

Ben: We ran outside to help him. We were all laughing, though!

Rachel: (9) he think it was funny, too?

Ben: Not at first, but he laughed about it afterwards.

C Match to make sentences.

1 You live in a village,	.....	A weren't they?
2 You're not fifteen years old,	.....	B have you?
3 Carol has a maths test tomorrow,	.....	C don't you?
4 They were having lunch at the time,	.....	D didn't they?
5 You've been to France,	.....	E are you?
6 I'm not the only one,	.....	F haven't you?
7 They all passed the test,	.....	G will she?
8 You haven't seen Linda anywhere,	.....	H doesn't she?
9 She won't tell anyone else,	.....	I isn't it?
10 This is the right DVD,	.....	J am I?

D Complete the question tags.

- 1 Mark doesn't eat meat, he?
- 2 We should phone Grandma, we?
- 3 I didn't get you into trouble, I?
- 4 You weren't waiting for me, you?
- 5 Jill has finished her homework, she?
- 6 You'll call me later, you?
- 7 Let's go out tonight, we?
- 8 I'm going to pass the exam, I?

E Choose the correct answer.

- 1 Excuse me. Could you tell me how much , please?
A are these jeans B these jeans are
- 2 Can you let me know what time ?
A does the train arrive B the train arrives
- 3 Do you know if at seven o'clock?
A the show starts B does the show start
- 4 I wonder if you could tell me what
A is the difference B the difference is
- 5 I wonder if you know who ask.
A I should B should I

F Complete each second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence.



- 1 Where's the post office?
I wonder if you could tell me
- 2 Why did you do that?
Could you tell us ?
- 3 How much will the holiday cost?
Can you let me know ?
- 4 Are there any cafés near here?
Could you tell me if ?
- 5 Does Jim like jazz music?
Do you know ?