Pre-intermediate Unit 10a

Subject and object questions



Policeman: Who called the police?
Shop owner: I did.
Policeman: What happened?
Shop owner: Someone broke into the shop.
Policeman: When did it happen?
Shop owner: In the middle of the night.
Policeman: What did they take?
Shop owner: They took some jewellery …

Presentation

You can ask questions about the subject or the object of the verb using *what / who / which / whose / how much / how many.*

Subject questions	Object questions
In subject questions, the question word is the subject of the verb. subject: *Who* — verb: *called* — object: *the police?*	In object questions, the question word is <u>not</u> the subject of the verb. question word: *When* — auxiliary verb: *did* — subject: *it* — main verb: *happen?*
The word order in a subject question is the same as in an affirmative sentence. *Who called the police?* *The shop owner called the police.*	The word order in object questions is not the same as the word order in an affirmative sentence. *What did they take?* *They took some jewellery.*
You do not need an auxiliary verb (*do, does, did*) in present simple or past simple subject questions. Say *What happened?* (don't say *What ~~did happen?~~*) *What usually happens?* (don't say *What ~~does usually happen?~~*)	In the present simple and past simple, you need to add an auxiliary verb (do, does, did) before the subject. Say *What did you see?* (don't say *What ~~saw you?~~*)

TIP You cannot form subject questions with *where, when, why* or *how.*
Say *Where do you live?* (don't say *Where ~~you live?~~*)
Say *When did you start work?* (don't say *When ~~you started work?~~*)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 **Read an article about a robbery. Complete the questions 1–7 with *who*, *what* or *when* and an auxiliary verb where necessary.**



A robber thought the robbery was going well when he ran from the chemist's with the money. But there was one problem. He had locked the car doors and the keys were inside. He couldn't open the doors, so when the police arrived he ran away. The police finally caught him later that night and he asked them, 'Would you mind taking care of my car, please? The keys are inside.' But the police were more interested in locking him up than unlocking his car.

1 _____ the robber think? The robbery was going well.
2 _____ he run from? The chemist's shop.
3 _____ he leave the car keys? Inside the car.
4 _____ arrived? The police.
5 _____ happened next? The robber ran away.
6 _____ the police catch him? Later that night.
7 _____ asked the police to take care of the car? The robber.

2 **Complete the conversation with subject or object questions. Then listen and check.**

A: [1] What did you do (you/do) last night?
B: I watched *Miami Police Team*.
A: Oh no! I always miss that show. [2] _____ (what / happen)?
B: Well, you know Detective Sanchez's niece has joined the police force.
A: No. [3] _____ (when / she / join)? I missed that episode too.
B: Ages ago! She joined the police but he thought it was too dangerous for her. Anyway, she arrested someone for stealing a car, but it was an old boyfriend so then she released him.
A: Sorry, I don't understand. [4] _____ (who / think) it was too dangerous?
B: Her uncle, Detective Sanchez.
A: And [5] _____ (who / she / arrest)?
B: An old boyfriend from school.
A: And [6] _____ (who / release / the boyfriend)?
B: She did.
A: OK. And [7] _____ (what / Uncle Sanchez / say)?
B: Well obviously, he wasn't very happy.
A: [8] _____ (what / he / going to do) about it?
B: I think he's going to make her leave the police force.
A: I must watch it next week. What time is it on?
B: Nine o'clock.

3 **Which questions in exercises 1 and 2 are subject questions and which are object questions? Write *S* or *O*.**

Exercise 1
1 O 2___ 3___ 4___ 5___ 6___ 7___

Exercise 2
1___ 2___ 3___ 4___ 5___ 6___ 7___ 8___

LIVEWORKSHEETS