

Est-ce que ou qu'est-ce que?

Lesson and exercise

“**Qu'est-ce que**” and “**Est-ce que**” are regularly used in French to ask questions. They look and sound similar, but they are actually quite different..

Qu'est-ce que is a French way to start a question. Literally, it's built with three French words:

Que + est + ce → “What + is + it/that?...”

As a French question, it's a longer way to ask: “What... ?”

This is an open type of question and many different response will be provided

“**Est-ce que...**” is another French way to ask a question. But, while “**Qu'est-ce que**” asks for “What...?”, “**Est-ce que...**” (= “Is it that... ?” literally) asks “Is it true that... ?.”

It's an easy way to announce that you're asking a “Yes / No” question.

exemples:

You can create 2 types of questions from one simple statement, one will be a yes or no question and the other one will be an open question that will provide different answers,

Tu manges= you eat

Q1. Est-ce que tu manges?

Are you eating

A1. non, je ne manges pas/ oui, je mange

no, i'm not eating/ yes, i'm eating

Q2. Qu'est-ce que tu manges?

A.2 Je mange une pomme/ je mange un sandwich etc.

I eat an apple

I eat a sandwich etc.

Exercises: Transform the following sentences into closed questions(yes/no) and open ended questions. Write a possible answer as well for each type of question.

1. Tu regardes (watch)

Q1. _____

A.1 _____

Q2. _____

A.2 _____

2. Tu bois (drink)

Q1. _____

A.1 _____

Q2. _____

A.2 _____

3 Tu écoutes (listen)

Q1. _____

A.1 _____

Q2. _____

A.2 _____

4 , Tu cuisines (cook)

Q1. _____

A.1 _____

Q2. _____

A.2 _____

5. Tu penses (think)

Q1. _____

A.1 _____

Q2. _____

A.2 _____