● Questions / question tags / indirect questions

Questions

Form	
With *be* as a main verb	***Am/Was*** *I on time?* ***Are/Were*** *you/we/they tired?* ***Is/Was*** *he/she/it cold?*
With *be* as an auxiliary verb	***Am/Was*** *I interrupt**ing** you?* ***Are/Were*** *you/we/they go**ing** on a picnic?* ***Is/Was*** *he/she/it work**ing**?*
With *have* as an auxiliary verb	***Have/Had*** *I/you/we/they got any money?* ***Has/Had*** *he/she/it finished?*
With *have* as a main verb and with all other verbs	***Do/Did*** *I/you/we/they have enough time?* ***Does/Did*** *he/she/it need anything?*
With modals	***Should*** *I wait?* ***Could*** *you help me?* ***Will*** *she be here soon?* ***Might*** *they be lost?*
With *who, whose, whom, what, which, where, when, why* and *how*	***Who*** *is taking the rubbish out?* ***Whose*** *book is this?* *To **whom** did you speak?* ***What*** *is the weather like?* ***Which*** *do you want?* ***Where*** *did you go on holiday?* ***When*** *is Terry starting work?* ***Why*** *did they leave?* ***How*** *do you spell 'environment'?*

Watch out!

- With the question words *who* and *what*, whether we use *do* or not depends on whether the question word refers to the **subject** or **object** of the verb.
  - ✓ Subject: *Who **saw** you?* (= Someone saw you. Who?)
  - ✓ Object: *Who **did** you **see**?* (= You saw someone. Who?)
- Remember that after *do* or *does*, we use the bare infinitive.
  - ✓ *Did you **go** to the talk on the environment?*
  - ✗ ~~*Did you **went** to the talk on the environment?*~~
  - ✓ *Does Tom **want** a glass of orange juice?*
  - ✗ ~~*Does Tom **wants** a glass of orange juice?*~~
- Remember that the verb *mean* forms questions just like other main verbs.
  - ✓ *What **does** 'environmental' **mean**?*
  - ✗ ~~*What **means** 'environmental'?*~~

Question tags

Form	
With *be* as a main verb	*You **are** Canadian, **aren't** you?* *She **is** beautiful, **isn't** she?*
With auxiliary verbs and modals	*You **haven't** lost my CD, **have** you?* *We **are** having the lesson early tomorrow, **aren't** we?* *People **should** recycle things, **shouldn't** they?* *There **will** be lots of people there, **won't** there?*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

With *have* as a main verb	*Tom **has** a lovely voice, **hasn't/doesn't** he?*
With other verbs	*You play the guitar, **don't** you?* *Frank lives in Germany now, **doesn't** he?* *Your friends really enjoyed themselves at the party, **didn't** they?*
With *Let's*	*Let's get a DVD tonight, **shall we**?*
With imperatives	*Pass me that book, **will/would/could you**?* *Don't forget tonight, **will you**?*

Use	Example
To ask someone to agree with us (falling intonation)	*It's really hot, **isn't it**?*
To check whether something is true (rising intonation)	*You're Spanish, **aren't you**?*

Watch out!

- In sentences with *I am*, we use *aren't I?* as the question tag. In sentences with *I am not*, we use *am I?*
  - ✓ *I'm the best student in the class, **aren't** I?*
  - ✓ *I'm not very tall, **am** I?*
- With *everyone, no one* and *someone*, we use questions tags with a plural verb and *they*.
  - ✓ *Everyone's going to be there, **aren't they**?*
  - ✓ *No one wants to come, **do they**?*
  - ✓ *Someone's been in here, **haven't they**?*
- Usually, when we have a positive verb in a sentence, we use a negative question tag. When we have a negative verb in a sentence, we use a positive question tag. In sentences with a negative word like *no, little, never, nobody, no one, hardly*, etc, we use a positive question tag.
  - ✓ *You have got **no** manners, **have** you?*
  - ✓ *We **never** enjoy our holiday, **do** we?*
- In sentences where the subject is *there*, we repeat *there* in the question tag.
  - ✓ *There's no point calling Tim now, **is there**?*

US vs UK Grammar

- In American English, a question tag with *do* can be used after a sentence with *have got*. This is not usually done in British English.
  US: *They've got a lot of money, **don't** they?*
  UK: *They've got a lot of money, **haven't** they?*

Indirect questions

Form	introductory phrase or question + clause with normal word order
Use	We use indirect questions when we want to ask questions politely.

Some introductory phrases and questions	Example
Can/Could you tell me ...?	*Could you tell me what time it is?*
Could you let me know ...?	*Could you let me know when it starts?*
Do you know ...?	*Do you know who that woman is?*
I wonder if you could tell me ...	*I wonder if you could tell me how much this costs.*
I wonder if you know ...	*I wonder if you know what the starting salary is.*
I would like to know ...	*I would like to know what your company is going to do about it.*

Watch out!

- We **do not** use question word order in the second part of the sentence.
  - ✓ *I would like to know when **the next train to London leaves**.*
  - ✗ ~~*I would like to know when **does the next train to London leave**.*~~
- Some indirect questions, which begin with a question word, need a question mark at the end.
  - ✓ ***Could** you tell me where the library is?*
- If a direct question is a 'yes/no' question, the equivalent indirect question uses *if* or *whether*.
  - ✓ *I wonder **if/whether** you have read this book.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Choose the correct answer.

1 Oh, I'm sorry! ..... disturbing you?
A Do I C Should I
B Have I D Am I

2 Did Dorothy ..... you about the meeting on Friday?
A told C has told
B tell D tells

3 ..... hot when you were in Spain?
A Was it C Did it
B It was D It made

4 Tony, ... got time to call Mrs Roberts?
A do you have C are you
B you have D have you

5 When your boss arrived, ... finished the report?
A you had C had you
B did you have D were you

6 I know Jane's pretty, but ..... seen someone spend so much time in front of the mirror?
A do you ever C have you ever
B you have never D ever have you

7 It's raining, so ..... cancel the concert?
A will they C do they will
B they will D are they

8 ..... pass me the salt, please?
A You could C You are
B Are you D Could you

9 Sir, ... repeat what the homework is, please?
A do you C you
B are you D can you

10 ..... the couple you met in France last year staying at the same hotel?
A Did C Were
B Have D Could

11 I know how to pronounce 'controversy', but what ..... ?
A does it mean C is it mean
B it means D means it

12 It's a great idea, but ..... it will work?
A are you think C you think
B do you think D you do think

B Write questions.

1 you / wash / your hair / when I rang?
.....

2 Julie / give / you / her e-mail address / yesterday?
.....

3 you / always / have / lunch / this late?
.....

4 Jack and Tom / come / to the party / tonight?
.....

5 you / can / give / me / a hand / later?
.....

6 how / you / spell / your name?
.....

7 why / the government / can't / do / something / about the situation?
.....

8 where / you / go / for your honeymoon / last year?
.....

9 what / your house / look like / when / it is finished?
.....

10 which / flavour of ice cream / your favourite / be?
.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

C Complete using the words in the box. Use each word only once. There is one extra word you do not need to use.

who • where • which • whose • what • whom • how • when • why

HELP US HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

(1) ..... responsibility is it to look after the environment? Yours! And (2) ..... should you start? Right now is the answer! But (3) ..... is going to help you? We are! We are GreenWarriors, the environmental protest group, and we know the answers to all your questions. We've put together this factsheet to get you started.

(4) ..... me?
We all have a responsibility to the world around us. Ordinary people like you can make a big difference.

But (5) ..... can I make a difference?
By recycling your paper, glass and plastic and by taking part in GreenWarrior demonstrations and protests in your area.

(6) ..... 's the first step?
The first step is to come along to the GreenWarrior offices and speak to one of our officers. They will let you know about the next protest in your area.

(7) ..... other organisations are you connected to?
GreenWarriors is a completely independent protest organisation.

(8) ..... is GreenWarriors based?
We are a national organisation, with our headquarters in Northampton.

D Circle the correct phrase.

1 'Who **asked you / did you ask** to the party?'
'Maria, but she told me she couldn't come.'

2 'Who **saw you / did you see** at the supermarket?'
'Just Ben, but I don't think he saw me.'

3 'What **gave you / did you give** the impression that Greg was depressed?'
'Oh, I don't know. He just seemed a bit down.'

4 'Who **thought you / did you think** had stolen the money?'
'Jenny, but she believed me when I told her I hadn't done it.'

5 'Which programme **taught you / did you teach** the most?'
'Well, I learned a lot from *Extreme History*.'

6 'Who **borrowed you / did you borrow** this book from?'
'Tracy, and I need to give it back to her tomorrow.'

7 'What **brought you / did you bring** to this part of the world?'
'Work, really, and I've always loved this country.'

8 'Who **accused George / did George accuse** of starting the fight?'
'He says that John started it by calling him names.'

9 'Which person **admires you / do you admire** the most?'
'I think I would say my grandmother because she's worked hard all her life.'

10 'Who **told Dave / did Dave tell** your secret?'
'I'm not sure, but I think Simone probably told him.'

LIVEWORKSHEETS

E Write one word in each gap.

Early humans and the weather

(1) ..... you think you understand the weather? For early humans, the weather was a constant source of questions. (2) ..... is it raining? What (3) ..... this storm mean? Where (4) ..... the wind go when it blows? People came up with many explanations for the weather, usually involving gods or ancestors. (5) ..... you explain what a rainbow is? The Cherokee people of America believed that it was the hem of the sun god's coat.

The weather has also been used to explain other things. What would you say if someone asked you (6) ..... kangaroos come from? You'd probably say Australia, but (7) ..... did the Aborigines explain these strange animals? They told a story about a great storm. A group of Aboriginal hunters watched in amazement as the wind blew large creatures over their heads. (8) ..... could they be? Finally, the wind died down and the kangaroos landed on the ground. The storm had brought them a new animal to hunt.

F Match to make sentences.

1	You've sent that letter I gave you, ...	A	don't you?
2	You catch the bus to school, ...	B	didn't you?
3	You won't tell anyone about this, ...	C	will you?
4	You're a friend of Charlie's, ...	D	haven't you?
5	You were living in Hong Kong then, ...	E	do you?
6	You never work more than you have to, ...	F	did you?
7	You made no effort to make friends with Darren, ...	G	weren't you?
8	You got Jimmy a cap for his birthday, ...	H	aren't you?

G Complete the question tags.

1 Get me some chewing gum when you go to the shop, ... you?
2 Let's watch that new DVD you bought today, ... we?
3 There's not really much point waiting, ... there?
4 Tonia will put us up for the weekend, ... she?
5 Nobody seems to like Jessica, ... they?
6 I'm not making much sense now, ... I?
7 Let's go because it's getting late, ... it?
8 If you borrow my coat, don't get it dirty, ... you?
9 Bill should be here by now, ... he?
10 I'm making you feel uncomfortable, ... I?
11 Someone left the door open, ... they?
12 Nobody knows about this, ... they?

H Rewrite the sentences correctly.

1 I wonder if you could tell me what time does the plane from Frankfurt arrive?

.....

2 Could you let me know when would you like me to come for an interview.

.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 I wonder if you know what bus should I catch for the town centre.

.....

4 Do you think you could tell me how do you work this ticket machine?

.....

5 I wonder you have seen George?

.....

6 I would like to know do you have any double rooms?

.....

7 Can you tell me what were you doing in my office?

.....

8 Do you know where is this address?

.....

I Complete each second sentence using the word given, so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Write between two and five words in each gap.

1 When does Tina get back from Berlin? **know**
Do ..... back from Berlin?

2 What time does the film start tonight? **starts**
Could you tell me ..... tonight?

3 Is service included in the price? **know**
I would like to ..... in the price.

4 What is the salary? **let**
Could you ..... the salary is?

5 Have you been to Brussels before? **wonder**
I ..... to Brussels before.

6 Did Gail pass her exam? **passed**
Do you know ..... her exam?

7 I wonder if you know where Mary went after the party last night. **go**
Where ..... after the party last night?

8 I would like to know how many days holiday we get each year. **given**
How many days holiday ..... each year?

J Circle the extra word in each sentence.

1 Do you have much free time these days or are you be quite busy?

2 I would like to know it when I can expect my order to be delivered.

3 Do you think whether you could possibly let me know how soon you will have the work finished?

4 I wonder if you know who it is responsible for cleaning the building.

5 Tell Roger who did you saw when you were at the police station the other day.

6 Did Dad mention who he sold him the car to?

7 You shouldn't leave your homework to the very last minute if you want to get a good mark, should not you?

8 I wonder it if you know where I can buy something to eat.

LIVEWORKSHEETS