Object and Subject Questions

Usually, when we ask a question, we want to know about the object of the answer:

- **What** did you lose?
- I lost **my purse.**

'My purse' is the object of the answer and 'what' is the object of the question. (The subject of the question is 'you'.)

Here's another example:
- **Who** did John meet?
- John met **Lucy**.

'Lucy' is the object of the answer and 'who' is the object of the question.

When we usually learn about how to make a question, we learn about object questions, because they are the most common type of question. The normal rules that you learn about making questions, such as inverting the question word and the auxiliary verb, or adding 'do', 'does' or 'did', are all used in object questions.

However, sometimes we want to ask a question where the thing we want to know is actually the subject of the answer.

Here's an answer:
- Lucy kissed John.

We can ask about John, in a normal object question:
- Who did Lucy kiss?

But we can also ask about Lucy.
- Who kissed John?

'Who kissed John?' is a subject question. We don't need to use inversion, or add 'did'. Instead, we just take out 'Lucy' from the answer (which is a normal sentence) and add 'who'. We generally make subject questions using 'who' or 'what'.

Let's have a look at some more examples:

James dropped the glass.
Object question: What did James drop?
Subject question: Who dropped the glass?

We will read the book.
Object question: What will you read?
Subject question: Who will read the book?

Amanda washed the car.
Object question: What did Amanda wash?
Subject question: Who washed the car?

The students like their new professor.
Object question: Who do the students like?
Subject question: Who likes the new professor?

I'm buying some bread.
Object question: What are you buying?
Subject question: Who is buying some bread?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Object and Subject Questions

Make an object question and a subject question.

1. The car is in the garage.
Object question: _____
Subject question: _____

2. Julie loves ice-cream.
Object question: _____
Subject question: _____

3. The food was on the table.
Object question: _____
Subject question: _____

4. The student is from Colombia.
Object question: _____
Subject question: _____

5. David has lost his wallet.
Object question: _____
Subject question: _____

6. Luke read the textbook.
Object question: _____
Subject question: _____

7. The caterpillar became a butterfly.
Object question: _____
Subject question: _____

8. The teacher is living in Istanbul.
Object question: _____
Subject question: _____

9. William has visited Spain.
Object question: _____
Subject question: _____

10. The teenagers enjoyed the party.
Object question: _____
Subject question: _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS