

Can you tell me what this is / does / is for?

Can you tell me what this app is for?



It tells your TV to turn on.

Language focus

Use **Can you tell me what this is / does / is for?** to ask someone to explain the function of something.

Can you tell me what this button is for?

Questions beginning with **Can you tell me ... ?** are a less direct and more polite way of asking someone something.

1 Choose the correct words to complete the dialogues.

- 1 Can you tell me what a screwdriver *do / is for*?
It's for turning screws.
- 2 Can you tell me what *is for / this is*?
It's a spanner. It's for holding and turning nuts.
- 3 Can you tell me what a drill *is for / this is*?
It's for making holes.
- 4 Can you tell me what this machine *does / do*?
It makes yoghurt.
- 5 Can you tell me what a lever *this is / does*?
It operates a machine.
- 6 Can you tell me what a saw *for / is for*?
It's for cutting wood.

2 Complete the questions with the words from the box.

tell me for you does is

- 1 Can you tell me what this is?
- 2 Can you tell me what this tool _____ for?
- 3 Can you tell me what this lever is _____?
- 4 Can you tell me what this machine _____?
- 5 Can you tell _____ what this switch is for?
- 6 Can you _____ me what this button is for?



3 Match questions 1–6 in Activity 2 with answers a–f.

- | | | |
|---|---|----------|
| a | It's just a light switch. It's for turning the light on and off. Nothing special. | _____ |
| b | This lever is for starting that machine. | _____ |
| c | It translates things perfectly. It's a language machine. | _____ |
| d | This? No, I can't tell you anything about it. It's top secret. | <u>1</u> |
| e | This tool is very special. It's for, um ... Do you know, I can't remember. | _____ |
| f | Oh, this button is for increasing the temperature in the building. | _____ |

4 Complete the questions with *do*, *does* or *for*.

- 1 Can you tell me what this is for ? It's for making bread.
- 2 Can you tell me what this machine is _____ ? It's for heating liquids.
- 3 Can you tell me what this machine _____ ? It cleans tools.
- 4 Can you tell me what these machines _____ ? They regulate the temperature.
- 5 Can you tell me what this _____ ? It cuts cheese into blocks.
- 6 Can you tell me what this is _____ ? It's for keeping things clean.
- 7 Can you tell me what these _____ ? They hold everything in place.
- 8 Can you tell me what this is _____ ? It's for mixing chemicals.