

## Questions (1)

**A** In questions, we usually put the first *auxiliary verb (AV)* before the *subject (S)*:

S + AV                  AV + S

Tom	will	→	will	Tom?	■ Will Tom be here tomorrow?
you	have	→	have	you?	■ Have you been working hard?
I	can	→	can	I?	■ What can I do?
the house	was	→	was	the house?	■ When was the house built?

**B** In *simple present* questions, we use *do/does*:

you	live	→	do	you live?	■ Do you live near here?
the movie	begins	→	does	the movie begin?	■ What time does the movie begin? (not What time begins)

In *simple past* questions, we use *did*:

you	sold	→	did	you sell?	■ Did you sell your car?
the accident	happened	→	did	the accident happen?	■ How did the accident happen?

But do not use *do/does/did* if *who/what/which* is the subject of the sentence. Compare:

<i>who</i> <i>object</i>	<i>who</i> <i>subject</i>
Emma phoned somebody .	Somebody phoned Emma.
└─── <i>object</i> ───┘	└─── <i>subject</i> ───┘
Who did Emma phone?	Who phoned Emma?

In these examples, *who/what/which* is the subject:

- Who wants something to eat? (not Who does want)
- What happened to you last night? (not What did happen)
- Which bus goes downtown? (not Which bus does go)

**C** Note the position of prepositions in questions beginning *Who/What/Which/Where . . . ?*:

- Who do you want to speak to?                  ■ What was the weather like yesterday?
- Which job has Jane applied for?                  ■ Where are you from?

**D** Negative questions (*isn't it . . . ? / didn't you . . . ?*)

We use negative questions especially to show surprise:

- Didn't you hear the doorbell? I rang it four times.

We also use them when we expect the listener to agree with us:

- "Haven't we met somewhere before?" "Yes, I think we have."
- Isn't it a beautiful day! (= It's a beautiful day, isn't it?)

Note the meaning of *yes* and *no* in answers to negative questions:

- Don't you want to go to the party?    { Yes. (= Yes, I want to go.)  
  { No. (= No, I don't want to go.)

Note the word order in negative questions beginning *Why . . . ?*:

- Why don't we go out for dinner tonight? (not Why we don't)
- Why wasn't Mary at work yesterday? (not Why Mary wasn't)

# Exercises

## 46.1 Ask Joe questions. (Look at his answers before you write the questions.)



JOE

1. (where / from?) Where are you from?
2. (where / live / now?) Where \_\_\_\_\_ ?
3. (married?) \_\_\_\_\_
4. (how long / married?) \_\_\_\_\_
5. (children?) \_\_\_\_\_
6. (how old / they?) \_\_\_\_\_
7. (what / wife / do?) \_\_\_\_\_
8. (she / like her job?) \_\_\_\_\_

From Toronto originally.  
In Vancouver.  
Yes.  
Twelve years.  
Yes, three boys.  
They're 4, 7, and 9.  
She's a police officer.  
Yes, very much.

## 46.2 Make questions with *who* or *what*.

1. Somebody hit me.
2. I hit somebody.
3. Somebody gave me the key.
4. Something happened.
5. Diane told me something.
6. This book belongs to somebody.
7. Somebody lives in that house.
8. I fell over something.
9. Something fell on the floor.
10. This word means something.
11. I borrowed the money from somebody.
12. I'm worried about something.

Who hit you?

Who did you hit?

Who \_\_\_\_\_ ?

What \_\_\_\_\_ ?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 46.3 Put the words in parentheses in the correct order. All the sentences are questions.

1. (when / was / built / this house) When was this house built?
2. (how / cheese / is / made) \_\_\_\_\_
3. (when / invented / the computer / was) \_\_\_\_\_
4. (why / Sue / working / isn't / today) \_\_\_\_\_
5. (what time / coming / your friends / are) \_\_\_\_\_
6. (why / was / canceled / the concert) \_\_\_\_\_
7. (where / your mother / was / born) \_\_\_\_\_
8. (why / you / to the party / didn't / come) \_\_\_\_\_
9. (how / the accident / did / happen) \_\_\_\_\_
10. (why / this machine / doesn't / work) \_\_\_\_\_

## 46.4 Write negative questions from the words in parentheses. In each situation you are surprised.

1. A: We're not going to see Ann tonight.  
B: Why not? (she / not / come to the party?) Isn't she coming to the party?
2. A: I hope we don't see Brian tonight.  
B: Why not? (you / not / like / him?) \_\_\_\_\_
3. A: Don't go and see that movie.  
B: Why not? (it / not / good) \_\_\_\_\_
4. A: I'll have to borrow some money.  
B: Why? (you / not / have / any?) \_\_\_\_\_