

Questions 1

A

In questions we usually put the subject after the first verb:

subject + verb			verb + subject	
Tom	will	→	will	Tom?
you	have	→	have	you?
the house	was	→	was	the house?

- ☐ Will Tom be here tomorrow?
- ☐ Have you been working hard?
- ☐ When was the house built?

Remember that the subject comes after the *first* verb:

- ☐ Is Catherine working today? (*not* Is working Catherine)

B

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

you live → do you live?
the film begins → does the film begin?

- ☐ Do you live near here?
- ☐ What time does the film begin?

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

you sold → did you sell?
the train stopped → did the train stop?

- ☐ Did you sell your car?
- ☐ Why did the train stop?

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

who *object*
Emma telephoned somebody
| *object* |
Who did Emma telephone?

who *subject*
 Somebody telephoned Emma.
subject — |
 Who telephoned Emma?

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

- ☐ Who wants something to eat? (*not* Who does want)
- ☐ What happened to you last night? (*not* What did happen)
- ☐ How many people came to the meeting? (*not* did come)
- ☐ Which bus goes to the centre? (*not* does go)

C

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

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

You can use *preposition* + **whom** in formal style:

- ☐ To whom do you wish to speak?

D

Isn't it ... ? / Didn't you ... ? etc. (negative questions)

We use negative questions especially to show surprise:

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

or when we expect the listener to agree with us:

- 'Haven't we met somewhere before?' 'Yes, I think we have.'

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 a meal tonight? (*not* Why we don't go)
- ☐ Why wasn't Mary at work yesterday? (*not* Why Mary wasn't)

Exercises

Unit 49

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

- 1 (where / live?) Where do you live?
- 2 (born there?)
- 3 (married?)
- 4 (how long / married?)
- 5 (children?)
- 6 (how old / they?)
- 7 (what / do?)
- 8 (what / wife / do?)

In Manchester.
No, I was born in London.
Yes.
17 years.

Yes, two boys.

12 and 15.
I'm a journalist.
She's a doctor.



Joe

49.2 Make questions with **who** or **what**.

- 1 Somebody hit me.
- 2 I hit somebody.
- 3 Somebody paid the bill.
- 4 Something happened.
- 5 Diane said 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

49.3 Put the words in brackets 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 / cancelled / 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)

49.4 Write negative questions from the words in brackets. In each situation you are surprised.

- 1 A: We won't see Liz this evening.
B: Why not? (she / not / come / to the party?) Isn't she coming to the party?
- 2 A: I hope we don't meet David tonight.
B: Why? (you / not / like / him?)
- 3 A: Don't go and see that film.
B: Why not? (it / not / good?)
- 4 A: I'll have to borrow some money.
B: Why? (you / not / have / any?)