Unit 8

Check-out

Grammar Revision: Asking Questions

# YES/NO QUESTIONS

Yes/No questions expect \Yes" or \No" in the answer.

1. We make Yes/No questions from statements. In the case of auxiliary (help-ing) verbs *be* (*am* *=* *is* *=* *are*)*, have* and modal verbs like *can and must,* we do this by inversion, that is, by putting *be, have or can,* etc. in front of the subject:

*He is leaving. | Is he leaving?*

*They are late again. | Are they late again? She can drive a bus. | Can she drive a bus?*

*They have cleaned the room. | Have they cleaned the room?*

1. With all other verbs, we form Yes/No questions with Do and Does in the simple present and Did in the simple past. The form of the verb is always infinitive without *to*:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| do |  | subject |  | main verb |  |
|  |  |  |
| did |  |  |  | (infinitive without to) |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

*We turn left here. | Do we turn left here?*

*He works well. | Does he work well?*

*They arrived late. | Did they arrive late?*

*The guest left early. | Did the guest leave early?*

Practice

## Elementary questions with be / can / may / must.

Note:

*The verb \to be"* (*am=is=are*) *and all the helping verbs can, may, must normally make questions by inversion with the subject. They make negative sentences by adding \not" after am=is=are=can=may=must.*

Make the following statements (a) negative, (b) questions:

* 1. He can read English.
  2. I must do it.
  3. He is very late.

* 1. You can wait here.
  2. I am right.
  3. We can leave our luggage there.
  4. He must pay for it at once.
  5. They are French.
  6. You must inform the manager about it.
  7. He can leave now.
  8. She can put it all in the laundry bag.
  9. I must keep it.
  10. I am early.
  11. They can leave now.
  12. You must send a deposit.
  13. I can send a fax tomorrow.

## Elementary questions: Simple Present for general and habitual actions

Note:

All ordinary full verbs normally make questions by adding do/does before the subject:

*They travel* by train. *! Do they travel* by train?

*He pays* with a credit card. *! Does he pay* with a credit card?

All ordinary full verbs normally make negative form by adding don’t/doesn’t before the full verb:

*They clean* rooms every day. *! They don’t clean* rooms every day. *He stays* in the same suite. *! He doesn’t stay* in the same suite.

Make the following statements (a) negative, (b) Yes/No questions:

* 1. John prefers guestrooms with shower.
  2. They send confirmation by e-mail.
  3. The receptionist takes reservations.
  4. Cashiers give a receipt.
  5. The maids change bed linen every day.
  6. The suite costs 300 dollars.
  7. Our employees know Arabic.
  8. They sell 30 guestrooms every day.
  9. The guests often use our tennis courts.
  10. The guests usually reserve garage space at the time of room reservation.

* 1. The hotel allows pets in guestrooms.
  2. We keep all mail in a room rack.
  3. They write to them every day.
  4. The restaurant offers international cuisine.
  5. Our chef makes good cakes.

1. Write your questions.

What do you say when you want to know if *: : :*

* 1. *: : :* you’re late.
  2. *: : :* this is the London train.
  3. *: : :* she should be here.
  4. *: : :* she could ask a question.
  5. *: : :* your photos are ready.
  6. *: : :* it will be fine tomorrow.
  7. *: : :* John is working in the garden.
  8. *: : :* my friend will be staying.
  9. *: : :* the children are studying.
  10. *: : :* they would like an invitation.
  11. *: : :* Jane gives piano lessons.
  12. *: : :* they often argue like that.
  13. *: : :* Tony enjoyed his stay at the hotel.
  14. *: : :* I run a mile every morning.
  15. *: : :* they live in the south.
  16. *: : :* Sheila went to the lecture.

# QUESTION-WORD QUESTIONS

## The question words are:

when, where, what, who, which, whose, why, how,

how many / how much, how old, how often, how far, etc.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The usual word order in question-word questions is: | | |  |
| question word | auxiliary verb | subject | main verb: |
| When | does | he | arrive? |
| Where | do | you | live? |
| When | is | your birthday? |  |
| Where | are | they? |  |
| Why | do | they | leave? |
| When | did | he | phone? |
| Where | can | I | stay? |

1. Who(m) as a question word

Who(m) asks for the object of a sentence, usually the person’s name or a pronoun.

Who(m) refers only to people.

Whom *: : :* ? is used in formal English, but in everyday style they prefer

Who *: : :* ?:

*Whom did you meet at the party?* (formal) *Who did you meet at the party?* (informal)

Who(m) is often used in questions with verbs followed by to or for: *Who(m) did you give it to?*

*Who(m) did you buy it for?*

1. What as a question word

What *: : :* ? asks for a whole sentence or for the object of a sentence: *What are you doing? | I’m writing.*

*What are you writing? | A letter.* (*I’m writing a letter.*)What also combines with nouns:

*What book=books do you prefer? What colour is your new car? What nationality is your neighbour? What kind of room do you require? What size : : : ?*

*What time* (*date=year*) *will you be arriving?*

1. How as a question word. We use How *: : :* ? to ask about manner: *How do we get to the town from here?*

*How did you hear about the concert? How does this machine work?*

*How do you plan to spend your holiday? How did you learn it?*

How combines with *much, many,* and with *adjectives* and *adverbs:*

*How much does it cost?*

How much + uncountable noun: *How much bread / milk / etc* *: : :* *?*

How many + countable noun in the plural:

*How many books / employees / etc : : : ?*

*How big is the room?* (to ask about size)

*How far is it from here?* (to ask about distance)

*How old is he?* (to ask about age)

*How long have you lived here?* (to ask about time)

*How well can you speak Spanish?* (to speak about abilities)

1. SUBJECT questions: Who? What? Which? Whose?

We ask a subject question when we want to learn about the subject.

Note:

There is no inversion and the question has the same word order as the statement:

*Who occupies room 410?*

*What happened to you last night? Which of you broke the window?*

What? Which? Whose? and How much? / How many? can combine with other subject words:

*Which bus goes to the city centre? Whose book is on the °oor? Whose telephone is ringing? How many students are absent? How much time has passed?*

When we answer subject questions, we often use the same auxiliary (helping) verb as in the question:

*Who can play the piano? | I can = can’t.*

When there is not an auxiliary verb in the question, we use do, does or did in the answer:

*Who wants a lift? | I do. = He does.*

*Who won? | We did.*

Practice

1. Make two questions from each statement: 1) a Yes/No question
   1. a Question Word question
      1. She lives in the city centre. (where)
      2. She can help us. (how)
      3. He wrote her a letter. (why)
      4. He arrives at 10. (what time)
      5. They sold the house 5 years ago. (when)
      6. The flight was delayed because of bad weather. (why)
      7. The parents bought her a car as a birthday present. (what)
      8. He works well. (how)
      9. They have been married for ten years. (how long)
      10. The house will be ready in autumn. (when)
2. Write questions using the past tense with Who(m) *: : :* ? to produce the answers given.

1. (you invite to your house?) | The Fries. Who(m) did you invite to your house?

2. (Jane see this morning?) | Her mother.

3. (you speak to?) |The manager.

4. (they employ?) | Miss Johnson.

5. (she buy this present for?) | Her son.

6. (John phone?) | His brother.

7. (you complain to?) | The headmaster.

8. (she write to?) | Her sister.

1. Complete the questions to fit the given answers. Think about the combinations you can make with What’s *: : :* ? or What *: : :* ?.
   1. What are you doing? / What are you looking at? | I’m looking at some travel brochures.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2. | What |  | ? |  |
|  | | I work as an assistant in a book shop. | |  |  |
| 3. | What |  | ? |  |
|  | | I use ‘Dove’ shampoo. It’s lovely. | |  |  |
| 4. | What |  | ? |  |
|  |  |
|  | | She’s good-looking, but very unpleasant. | |  |  |
| 5. | What |  | ? |  |
|  | | Wonderful! Lots of sunshine and no rain. | |  |  |
| 6. | What |  | ? |  |
|  | | It’s called a ’spade’ in English. | |  |  |
| 7. | What |  | ? |  |
|  | | It’s a Ford. | |  |  |
| 8. | What |  | ? |  |
|  | | He’s Nigerian. | |  |  |
| 9. | What |  | ? |  |
|  | | I think they’re leaving at 9.00. | |  |  |
| 10. | What |  | ? |  |
|  | | It’s March 13th. | |  |  |
| 11. | What |  | ? |  |

| It’s for scraping paint off windows.

1. Read these situations. Then write questions with When? or Where?
   1. It’s Jim’s birthday soon. You can’t remember when it is. Ask.
   2. You like your friend’s T-shirt. You’d like to know where he/she got it. Ask.
   3. You’re going on a coach trip but can’t remember the departure time. Ask a friend.
   4. Someone mentions a place called Kyzyl. You have no idea where it is. Ask.

1. Complete the questions to fit the given answers. Think about combinations you can make with ‘Which *: : :* ?’

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Which |  | ? |  |
|  | | We went to see ‘Star Wars’. | |  |  |
| 2. | Which |  | ? |  |
|  | | Oh, I like novels best. | |  |  |
| 3. | Which |  | ? |  |
|  |  |
|  | | She always uses ‘Nivea’ soap. | |  |  |
| 4. | Which |  | ? |  |
|  |  |
|  | | I met Jill and Sue there. | |  |  |
| 5. | Which |  | ? |  |
|  | | I think the Nile’s the longest. | |  |  |
| 6. | Which |  | ? |  |
|  | | Oh, this desk is definitely the cheapest. | |  |  |
| 7. | Which |  | ? |  |
|  | | Of the three, I prefer the leather one. | |  |  |
| 8. | Which |  | ? |  |
|  | | That’s easy. I’ll always remember 1989. | |  |  |
| 9. | Which |  | ? |  |
|  | | Oh, July is definitely the hottest. | |  |  |
| 10. | Which |  | ? |  |

* + I think they went towards the station.

1. Fill in the blanks with Whose? or Who?

1. does this pen belong to? | It’s John’s.

2. pencil is this? | It’s Kate’s.

3. do those books belong to? | They’re both mine.

4. are those socks on the floor? | They’re Karl’s.

5. book is this? | It’s Maria’s.

6. gloves are these? | They’re Suzanne’s.

7. children are they? | My neighbour’s.

8. son is he? | He’s John and Jean’s.

9. ’s at the front door?

10. are these children? | They’re Mike and Shona’s from next

door.

1. Write a suitable question (positive or negative) with Why? to fit the given answers.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Why |  | ? |  |
|  |  |
|  | | Because I want to watch the late-night film. | |  |  |
| 2. | Why |  | ? |  |
|  |  |
|  | | Because I didn’t pass the exam. | |  |  |
| 3. | Why |  | ? |  |
|  | | Because I didn’t want to trouble you. | |  |  |
| 4. | Why |  | ? |  |
|  |  |
|  | | I phoned to let him know I had arrived. | |  |  |
| 5. | Why |  | ? |  |
|  | | I’m sorry I shouted at you. | |  |  |
| 6. | Why |  | ? |  |
|  | | To find out his address. | |  |  |
| 7. | Why |  | ? |  |
|  | | I’m already late for my appointment. | |  |  |
| 8. | Why |  | ? |  |
|  | | Because I’m working tomorrow. | |  |  |
| 9. | Why |  | ? |  |

| To check that I had locked the back door.

1. Change these *What* + *noun* questions into *How* + *adjective* questions.
   1. What’s the age of this building? | How old is the building?
   2. What’s the depth of the pool? |
   3. What distance is Rome from here? |
   4. What width is the door? |
   5. What length is the room? |
   6. What height is the house? |
2. Does the question-word ask for the subject or the object in each question? Write S or O against each one.
   * 1. Who spoke to you? S
     2. Who did you speak to? O
     3. Who will she leave her money to?
     4. Who’ll lend you the money?
     5. What frightened you?
     6. What did she see?

* + 1. Which hat does he like?
    2. Which hat suits him best?
    3. Whose number did you ring?
    4. Whose telephone rang?
    5. How many people did you invite?
    6. How many people came to your party?

1. Supply suitable subject question-words on the left and suitable an-swers on the right.
   1. *Who* can play chess? |
   2. wants to have a day off? |
   3. broke the big glass vase? |
   4. ’ll help tomorrow? |
   5. made this mark on the table? | A knife
   6. will make you happy? | A new car
   7. teacher took you for maths? |
   8. tie goes best with this shirt? |
   9. dog bit you? | My neighbour’s
   10. dog bit you? | The
   11. suitcase got lost on the journey? |