

Questions 1

A In questions the subject is usually 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?

The subject is after the *first* verb:

- Is Katherine** working today? (*not* Is working Katherine)

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

you	live	→	do	you live ?
the film	starts	→	does	the film start ?

- Do you live** near here?
- What time **does** the film **start**?

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 phoned **somebody**.

object →
Who **did** Emma **phone**?

who *subject*

Somebody phoned Emma.

subject →
Who **phoned** 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 party? (*not* did come)
- Which bus goes** to the centre? (*not* does go)

C In questions beginning **who/what/which/where**, prepositions (**in, for** etc.) usually go at the end:

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

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 before?' 'Yes, I think we have.'

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

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

We often use negative questions with **Why ...?**:

- Why don't we** eat out tonight? (*not* Why we don't eat)
- Why wasn't Emma** at work yesterday? (*not* Why Emma wasn't)

