

## QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS.....

To have a conversation you must be able **to ask** and **to answer** QUESTIONS. The following information will help you improve this language skill.

**WH Question Words:** we use **question words** to ask certain types of questions. For example:

	QUESTION WORD	FUNCTION	EXAMPLE
1	What	asking for information about something	What is your name?
2	What...for	asking for a reason, asking why	What did you do that for?
3	When	asking about time	When did he leave?
4	Where	asking in or at what place or position	Where do they live?
5	Which	asking about choice	Which colour do you want?
6	Who	asking what or which person or people ( <b>subject</b> )	<b>Who</b> opened the door?
7	Whom	asking what or which person or people ( <b>object</b> )	<b>Whom</b> did <b>you</b> see?
8	Whose	asking about ownership	Whose are these keys?
9	Why	asking for reason, asking what...for	Why do you say that?
10	Why don't	making a suggestion	Why don't I help you?
11	How	asking about manner	How does this work?
12		asking about condition or quality	How was your exam?
13	How far	distance	How far is Madrid from Malaga?
14	How long	length (time or space)	How long will it take to get from Malaga to Madrid?
15	How many	quantity (countable)	How many cars are there?
16	How much	quantity (uncountable)	How much money do you have?
17	How old	age	How old are you?
18	How often	Number of times you do something	How often do you go to the cinema?

## BASIC QUESTION STRUCTURE

- The **basic structure** of a question in English is very simple. We usually put the subject after the first verb:

	AUXILIARY VERB (AV)	SUBJECT (S)	MAIN VERB	
	Do	you	work	in Malaga?
Where	do	you	work?	
	Are	they	playing	football?
	Did	Mary	go to	the beach yesterday?
What	did	you	do	yesterday?
	Can	Anthony	play	the guitar?
	Have	you	seen	ET?

### EXCEPTION ONE:

- For the verb **TO BE** in **simple present** and **simple past**, we **DO NOT** use an auxiliary verb. We simply reverse the positions of **TO BE** and the **subject**:

SIMPLE PRESENT				SIMPLE PAST		
<b>Statement:</b>	He	is	German.	My exam	was	in Teatinos
<b>Question:</b>	Is	he	German?	Was	my exam	in Teatinos?

**EXCEPTION TWO:**

- Do not use the auxiliary verbs: do, does, did, etc..., if the WH question, the Who / What, etc..., is the **SUBJECT** of the question.
- Remember the **Subject** is the DOER of the ACTION, and the **Object** is the RECEIVER of the ACTION

	WHO = OBJECT						WHO = SUBJECT		
		AV	Subject	Verb	Object		Subject	Verb	Object
Answer:			Emma	telephoned	somebody		Somebody	telephoned	Emma
Question:	Who	did	Emma	telephone?			Who	telephoned	Emma?
Answer:			I	hit	somebody		Somebody	hit	me
Question:	Who	did	you	hit?			Who	hit	you?

**EXAMPLES: The WHO / WHAT... is the SUBJECT of the QUESTION:**

- Who wants something to eat?
- Who lives in that house?
- What fell on the floor?
- How many people went to the concert?

**BASIC QUESTION TYPES**

There are **3 basic types of question**:

- Yes/No Questions** (the answer to the question is "Yes" or "No")
- Question Word Questions** (the answer to the question is "Information")
- Choice Questions** (the answer to the question is "in the question")

**1. YES/NO QUESTIONS:**

Auxiliary verb	Subject	Main verb		Short Answer Yes or No
Do	you	want	dinner?	Yes, I do.
Can	you	drive?		No, I can't.
Has	she	done	her homework?	Yes, she has.
Did	they	go	home?	No, they didn't.

**REMEMBER THE EXCEPTIONS: Verb TO BE simple present and simple past**

	Main Verb	Subject		
	Is	Mary	Spanish?	Yes, she is.
	Was	Miguel	at the cinema?	No, he wasn't.

**2. QUESTION WORD QUESTIONS:**

Question word	Auxiliary verb	Subject	Main verb		Answer Information
Where	do	you	live?		In Paris.
When	are	we	going to have	lunch?	At 1pm.
Who	did	she	meet?		She met Tom.
Why	hasn't	Tara	done	it?	Because she can't.
How long	did	you	Stay	In Ireland?	3 weeks.
How much pizza	did	You	eat	yesterday?	3 slices.
Why	are	you	studying	English?	For work.

REMEMBER THE EXCEPTIONS: Verb TO BE simple present and simple past					
Question word	Auxiliary verb		Main verb		Answer Information
Where			is	Malaga?	In Spain.
How			are	you?	Very well.
How			was	she?	
REMEMBER THE EXCEPTIONS: THE QUESTION WORD is the SUBJECT					
Question word= SUBJECT	Auxiliary verb		Main verb		Answer Information
How many people			ate	pizza yesterday?	125
Which buses			go to	Cadiz?	The number 100
Who			lives	in that house?	Sarah

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

- |                                                                |                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Who</b> do you want to speak to?   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>What</b> was the weather like yesterday? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Which</b> job has Ann applied for? | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Where</b> are you from?                  |

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

- ☐ **To whom** do you wish to speak?

### 3. CHOICE QUESTIONS:

Auxiliary verb	Subject	Main verb		OR		Answer in the question
Do	you	want	tea	or	coffee?	Coffee, please.
Did	she	go	to London	or	New York?	She went to London.
REMEMBER THE EXCEPTIONS: Verb TO BE simple present and simple past						
	Main Verb	Subject				
	Is	it	white	or	black?	It's black.
	Were	they	£15	or	£50?	£15.

## PRACTICE EXERCISES:

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.



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 .....

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) .....