

English tenses

Present simple questions

Questions with the verb 'to be'

It is simple to make questions with the verb 'to be'. We just change the word order of a statement to make a positive question.

I am your best friend. - Am I your best friend?

You are unhappy. - Are you unhappy?

He/she/it is over there. - Is he/she/it over there?

We are lost. - Are we lost?

They are from the United States. - Are they from the United States?

Negative questions:

The negative questions usually express a surprise. The word order is different for full forms and short forms.

I am your best friend. - Am I your best friend?

You are unhappy. - Are you unhappy?

He/she/it is over there. - Is he/she/it over there?

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Questions with do/does

We use the auxiliary verb 'do' or 'does' + bare infinitive (infinitive without 'to') to form questions with other verbs.

Yes/no questions:

You play tennis on Saturdays. - Do you play tennis on Saturdays?

Sarah plays tennis with her boyfriend. - Does Sarah play tennis with her boyfriend?

Wh- questions:

A. We usually make wh- questions in the same way.

I want to be a lorry driver. - What do you want to be?

Josh goes out with Sue. - Who does Josh go out with?

B. We do not use 'do' or 'does', however, to make questions if the wh- pronoun introducing the question is the subject of the question.

Litter in the streets makes me angry. - What makes you angry? ('what' is the subject)

People that drop litter in the street make me angry. - Who makes you angry? ('who' is the subject)

Negative questions:

Negative questions with full forms and short forms are made in a different way. They usually express a surprise of the speaker.

A. In questions with full forms we add 'not' before a verb to form negative questions.

I do not go to school. - Do you not go to school?

She does not agree with it. - Does she not agree with it?

B. Questions with short forms have a different word order.

I do not understand that. - Don't you understand that?

He doesn't come from Barcelona. - Doesn't he come from Barcelona?

Present simple questions exercises:

www.e-grammar.org/present-simple-questions/

Our tip: www.e-grammar.org/pdf-books/ All PDF exercises + grammar rules in one place.