

Forming Questions

1. Yes/No Questions

Yes/No questions are those that can be answered with a "yes" or "no." These questions often involve the inversion of the subject and the auxiliary verb.

A. With Auxiliary Verbs

When the statement contains an auxiliary verb (such as "be," "have," "will," "can," etc.), you invert the subject and the auxiliary verb.

Examples:

Statement: She is going to the store.

Question: Is she going to the store?

Statement: They have finished their homework.

Question: Have they finished their homework?

Statement: You can swim.

Question: Can you swim?

B. Without Auxiliary Verbs

When the statement does not have an auxiliary verb, use the correct form of "do" (do, does, did) as the auxiliary verb and invert it with the subject.

Examples:

Statement: She likes ice cream.

Question: Does she like ice cream?

Statement: They played soccer yesterday.

Question: Did they play soccer yesterday?

2. WH- Questions

WH- questions begin with a question word such as who, what, where, when, why, or how.

These words ask for specific information.

A. With Auxiliary Verbs

When the statement contains an auxiliary verb, add the question word at the beginning and then invert the subject and the auxiliary verb.

Examples:

Statement: She is going to the market.

Question: Where is she going?

Statement: They have finished their homework.

Question: What have they finished?

B. Without Auxiliary Verbs

When the statement does not have an auxiliary verb, add the question word at the beginning, use the correct form of "do" as the auxiliary verb, and invert it with the subject.

Examples:

Statement: She likes ice cream.

Question: What does she like?

Statement: They played soccer yesterday.

Question: What did they play yesterday?

3. Questions with "Be"

When the main verb of the statement is "be" (am, is, are, was, were), simply invert the subject and the verb "be."

Examples:

Statement: She is a teacher.

Question: Is she a teacher?

Statement: They were happy.

Question: Were they happy?

4. Tag Questions

Tag questions are short questions added to the end of a statement, usually to confirm information or seek agreement.

The tag question uses the auxiliary or modal verb from the statement, inverted with the subject.

Note: If the statement is positive, the tag is negative, and vice versa.

Examples:

Statement: She is coming.

Question: She is coming, isn't she?

Statement: They didn't go.

Question: They didn't go, did they?

5. Subject Questions

When the question word itself is the subject of the question, the structure remains the same as a declarative sentence, except the question word replaces the subject.

Examples:

Statement: Someone broke the window.

Question: Who broke the window?

Statement: Something happened.

Question: What happened?

Examples

Example 1:

Statement: You have seen that movie.

Yes/No Question: Have you seen that movie?

WH- Question: What have you seen?

Example 2:

Statement: She can drive a car.

Yes/No Question: Can she drive a car?

WH- Question: What can she drive?

Example 3:

Statement: He went to the store.

Yes/No Question: Did he go to the store?

WH- Question: Where did he go?

Example 4:

Statement: They are friends.

Yes/No Question: Are they friends?

Tag Question: They are friends, aren't they?

Example 5:

Statement: The cat is on the roof.

Yes/No Question: Is the cat on the roof?

WH- Question: Where is the cat?

Summary

Forming questions in English involves various structures depending on the type of question:

- ❖ Yes/No questions often involve inversion of the subject and auxiliary verb.
- ❖ WH- questions start with a question word followed by the auxiliary verb and subject.
- ❖ Questions with "be" involve simple inversion of the subject and the verb "be."
- ❖ Tag questions confirm or seek agreement and use auxiliary or modal verbs inverted with the subject.
- ❖ Subject questions have the question word as the subject and follow the structure of a declarative sentence.