

Lecture Eight: Asking and Answering Questions

By the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

- form yes/no and WH- questions.
- respond correctly to simple questions.

Forming questions

* In questions the subject is usually after the first verb: subject + verb verb + subject
(Will Tom be here tomorrow?)

* The subject is after the first verb (**Is** Katherine working today?)

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

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

In past simple questions, we use did:

Eg: 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.

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)

In brief, If a statement uses “be” or an auxiliary verb, its question form is made by inverting that verb and the subject. Any other question is formed by adding “do” or “does.”

*Open questions are questions that do not have simple “yes” or “no” answers. In English, they are formed by using question words.

Task 1: Ask Joe questions.

- 1- (where / live) Where do you live?
- 2- (born there?)
- 3- (married?).....
- 4 -(how long?)
- 5- (what / do?).....
- 6- (what wife / do?)
- 7- (children?) 8 (how old?).....



JOE

In Manchester.
No, I was born in London.
Yes.
17 years.
I'm a journalist.
She's a doctor.
Yes, two boys.
12 and 15.

Task 2: Put the words in brackets in the correct order.

- 1- (when / was / built / this house?)When was this house built?
- 2- (how / cheese / is / made?).....
- 3- (why / Sue / working / isn't / today?).....
- 4- (what time / arriving / your friends / are?)
- 5- (why / was / cancelled / the meeting?)
- 6- (when / invented / paper / was?)
- 7- (where / your parents / were / born?).....
- 8- (why / you / to the party / didn't / come?).....

References

Booth. T. (2019). English for everyone/ Practice book: English Grammar Guide. Penguin Random House.

Murphy, R. (2019). English Grammar in Use (5th ed.). Cambridge University Press.