

WEEK 6

Question Tags In English Sentences

DECLARATIVE SENTENCE

- Sentence = [subject + predicate]
- Predicate = [verb + object(s) [adjuncts / adverbs]]

TWO TYPES

AFFIRMATIVE

- I know what I am doing.
- They have had food.
- Raju confirmed that he will be joining the discussion.
- Raju was going to speak with his friends.

NEGATIVE

- I don't know what I am doing.
- They have not had food.
- Raju did not confirm that he will be joining the discussion.

TAG QUESTIONS

- Appears at the end of the sentence.
- Appears in the form of a question.

Examples :

- You speak English, don't you?
- You do not speak English, do you?

Contraction of tense & negation is mandatory in tag questions.

Functions of Tag Questions

- Engage
- Verify
- Confirm

Structure of Tag Questions

- You speak English, don't you?
- You do not speak English, do you?
- You liked travelling, didn't you?
- You didn't like travelling, did you?

Some More Examples

- You don't know the consequence, do you?
- He is devastated with the outcome, isn't he?

- He rushed as fast as he could, didn't he?
- Whenever we play chess, Raju beats me, doesn't he?
- He spoke with you, didn't he?
- She wants me to come to Chennai, doesn't she?

THINGS TO NOTICE

- Important to work on tag questions to sound impressive.
- Negation & Tense
- Contraction in tag questions is a requirement.

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Questions in English

(INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES)

SENTENCE

- sentence = [subject + predicate]
- predicate = [verb + object(s) [adverbs / adverbs]]
- Order of words : SUB VERB OBJ
- Verbs have agreement marking as well as tense.

AGREEMENT

- Agreement Marking
 - Person
 - Number
 - Gender

Eg : Ramu loves cricket.

 Ramu = 3rd Person / Singular

 love = has matching information

TENSE

	singular	Plural	
Present	Is	Are	Am
Past	Was	Were	
Future	Shall / Will		

QUESTIONS IN A SENTENCE : Present

- Raju loves pizza.
- What does [Raju love ...] ?
- Raju eats thin pizza in the evening.
- What does [Raju eat ... in the evening] ?
- Raju is coming to Chennai tomorrow.
- Is [Raju coming to Chennai tomorrow.]

QUESTIONS IN A SENTENCE : Past

- Raju loved pizza.
- What did [Raju love ...] ?
- Raju ate (past tense) thin pizza in the evening.
- What did [Raju eat ... in the evening] ?
- Raju was coming to Chennai.
- Was [Raju coming to Chennai] ?

THINGS TO NOTICE

- # Question formation attracts attention in the structure of a sentence.
- # Questions are fronted in English.

- # Mainly two types of questions :
 - content type
 - Yes or No type
- # Are all question words in English wh- words?
 - No !

Questions : COMPLEX SENTENCES

COMPLEX SENTENCE

- # complex sentence :

Subject + Predicate [embedded sentence as object]

Examples : 1. Raju likes pizza and Ramu sandwich.

2. I would like to know what he did best.

3. I wonder what her name is.

4. Is the doctor available?

5. I wish I had a lot of money.

6. John knows Peter likes Mary.

QUESTION IN A COMPLEX SENTENCE

- # What did you eat in the evening?
- I asked what you ate in the evening.
- # What did you want?
- I know what you wanted.

THINGS TO NOTICE.

- # A complex sentence has an embedded sentence as an object of the verb in the matrix predicate.
- # A coordinated sentence is not a complex sentence.
- # Question sentences as embedded one does not have extraction of tense out of verb.

Whether & If clauses

- As a clause, they appear at the end of the sentence.
- Appears in the form of an indirect question, hence, add mildness to questions.
- Both functions as complementizers.
- Expressing doubts or choices between alternatives.

Examples : (1) I don't know whether she will come.

(2) She asked me if I was coming.

(3) I cannot decide whether to accept the new job offer.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN WHETHER & IF

We use whether, not if, before a to-infinitive.

Eg: I'm not sure whether to get a new laptop.

After a preposition, we use whether not if.

Eg: There are doubts about whether the decision was fair.

Whether can be followed by 'or not', but if does not occur in such cases.

Eg: The question is whether or not we have the right to interfere.

Both whether and if are possible when 'or' occurs later in the sentence; however, whether is preferable.

Eg: 1. It is not clear whether the source of information is really reliable or not. [FORMAL]

2. It is not clear if the source of information is reliable or not. [VERY INFORMAL]

NATURE OF PREDICATE

- She asked if I liked dosa.
- I can't tell whether she likes me or not.
- I was unsure whether my husband would actually come with me.

THINGS TO NOTICE

- * Whether and if can be complementizers.

- # They introduce a clause.
- # They start embedded clauses.
- # There are more functions of these two elements in English.

Clauses

NON - FINITE

- I want [to go].
- I want [him to go].
- I would like to know what he did best.

FINITE

- I believe that he is innocent.
- She said that she can speak three languages.
- I wonder what her name is.
- Could you tell [me] [if the doctor is available]?

that - Clause

that - Clause As Subjects of a Sent.

- (I) · That Mary would forget John so quickly was rather a shock.
- That Raju delivered a good lecture pleased Ramu.
- (II) · The fact that she didn't recognize him was rather a shock.
- The idea that the leader should know everything is unacceptable.
- (III) · It surprised me that he was still in bed.
- She made it clear that she wouldn't accept proposal.

DITRANSITIVE VERBS & that - CLAUSE

- # Tell, inform, advise, assure, convince, remind, promise, teach

- Eg: → He told us that it would take a long time
- The principal convinced everyone that the course would be good for the class!

- She convinced me that I was wrong.
- The pilot informed the passengers that the weather was not good.

DIRECT OBJECTS & INDIRECT OBJ

- He emailed his response quickly.
- He emailed quickly his response.
- He emailed his response to us.
- He emailed us his response.
- * He emailed to us his response.
- * He informed that he had an urgent meeting to attend quickly.
- * He informed quickly that he had an urgent meeting to attend.
- * He informed that he had an urgent meeting to attend to us.
- He informed us that he had an urgent meeting to attend.
- He informed to us that he had an urgent meeting to attend.

THINGS TO NOTICE

- In both subject & object positions we can have a sentence.

Structure & Functions Of Passives

PASSIVES

- Passive is a grammatical category that applies to verbs.
- Two types of sentences :

ACTIVE : the subject does the action

PASSIVE : the subject receives the action.

CANONICAL PASSIVES

- In passive constructions, a form of the verb be (or sometimes get) is used as an auxiliary together with the past participle (V3) form of a transitive verb.

Eg: Deepa wrote a novel. [Active]
A novel was written by Deepa. [Passive]

SUBJECT - OBJECT dilemma in Passives

- Subject (usually agent/doer of action) but there can be non-agentive subjects as well)
- Direct Object
- Indirect Object

Thematic / Logical / Semantic contents

- Agent
- Patient
- Recipient
- Instrument
- Theme, etc.

INDIRECT OBJECTS IN PASSIVES

• Consider the following :

- Ravi gave Deepa a book. (Active)
- Deepa was given a book by Ravi. (Passive)

• In the active form, gave is the verb ; Ravi is its subject, Deepa is its indirect object, and a book its direct object.

In the passive forms, the indirect object has been promoted and the direct object has been left in place.

- Ravi gave a book to Deepa.
- A book was given to Deepa by Ravi.

RESTRICTIONS ON PROMOTION

- promotion of the indirect object takes place from a construction in which it precedes the direct object, whereas promotion of the direct object in such cases takes place from a construction in which the indirect object follows the direct object;

Eg:- Rani gave Deepa a book.

- Deepa was given a book.

(and not * A book was given Deepa.)

Rani gave a book to Deepa.

- A book was given to Deepa.

(and not * Deepa was given a book to.)

FUNCTIONS

- # Contexts where the passive is preferred :

1. When the actor is unimportant.
2. When the actor is unknown.
3. When you want to hide the actor's identity.
4. When you need to put the punch word at the end of the sentence.
5. When the focus of the sentence is on the thing being acted on.
6. When the passive simply sounds better.

MORE FUNCTIONS

- # When we want to emphasize the receiver of the action:
 - America was discovered by Columbus.
- # When we don't know who did the action (the agent):
 - Some rare artefacts were stolen from the museum.
- # When we think the agent is not important.
 - The bridge is being repaired.
- # When the agent is unknown and predictable:
 - The workers are paid weekly.
- # When we make general statements / announcements / appeals:
 - People are requested generously to the relief funds.
- # When we want to avoid / suppress the responsibility of the actions:
 - The bullet got fired. / The bullet was fired.

Some Important Concepts in Adjectives

FUNCTIONS OF ADJECTIVES

Adjective in a sentence provides information like size, shape, age, colour, origin or material.

For Example :

- He is a big man. (size)
- It is a round cap. (shape)
- It is an old house. (age)
- It is a red house. (colour)
- It is a Chinese saucer. (origin)
- It is an iron bridge. (material)
- She is a noble woman. (opinion)
- It is an abandoned house. (observation)
- It is a reading hall. (purpose)

HOW DO WE IDENTIFY ADJECTIVES?

Many adjectives in English have certain endings, such as :

-able / -ible : uncomfortable, invisible, responsible, etc.

- -al : viral, illegal, educational, gradual, critical etc.
- -an : Indian, American, Mexican, urban etc.
- -ar : popular, spectacular, vulgar, etc.
- -ent : competent, patient, intelligent, silent, violent, etc.
- -ful : shameful, powerful, harmful, thoughtful, etc.
- -ic/-ical : synthetic, problematic, athletic, magical, etc.
- -ine : feminine, masculine, bovine, canine, etc.
- -ile : fragile, agile, docile, fertile, virile, etc.
- -ive : selective, predictive, informative, nature, etc.
- -less : harmless, careless, endless, homeless, etc.
- -ous : precious, delicious, notorious, cautious, etc.
- -some : tiresome, awesome, handsome, lonesome, etc.

NOUNS AS ADJECTIVES

When an item is defined by its purpose, that word isn't usually an adjective, but it acts as one with nouns in that situation.

- Dinner Table
- Music class
- Study room
- Cricket player

ATTRIBUTIVE & PREDICATIVE ADJ.

Adjectives with nouns & verbs

→ When adjectives go before the noun, they are called

attributive adjectives which give a particular information and detail about the following noun

- This is a wonderful/effective/great proposal. [attributive]
 - You are an honest person. [attributive]
 - I have an old car. [attributive]
 - This is a big book. [attributive]
- When adjectives go after linking verbs such as be, look, ~~or~~ become, seem, etc. they are called predicative adjectives. They act as complement to the sentence to complete the sense.

- This person looks suspicious. [predicative]
- This place seems unsafe. [predicative]
- She is beautiful. [predicative]
- This book is big. [predicative]

DIFFERENT MEANINGS OF ADJECTIVES BEFORE NOUN & AFTER VERB

We can use some adjectives before the noun or after the verb but the meaning differs.

ATTRIBUTIVE

- This particular work is so demanding that we need to give it some extra time.

(here particular refers to a specific work not any other)

- Her late husband left huge wealth after him.
(here late means 'dead/deceased')
- There are certain reasons for this delay in this project.
(here certain means 'something, but not a specific reason')

PREDICATIVE

- My father is very particular. He does not approve my coming home late.
(here 'particular' means not easy to accept any other thing)
- Some of you are always late in your class.
(here 'late' means not on time)
- I was certain that you would succeed in your efforts.
(certain means 'sure/definite')

ADJ. BEFORE NOUNS THAT MODIFY OTHER NOUNS

- A noun (N) is sometimes used before another

noun to give more information about it. They are noun modifiers. Adjectives (Adj.) come before noun modifiers.

- He has an [Adj] expensive [N] music [N] system.
- That is a [Adj] high [N] performance [N] machine.

ORDERING OF ADJECTIVES IN A PHRASE

Before a noun

- If it comes immediately before a noun, it's likely an adjective. For example, in 'red dress', 'red' is an adjective describing the noun dress.

Between an article & a noun

- If it comes between an article like "the", "an", or "a" and is followed by a noun, it is definitely an adjective. For example, in 'his big office', 'big' is an adj. to describe office 'the dirty room', 'dirty' is the adjective describing the noun 'room'.

Between a Possessive & a Noun

- If it comes between a possessive pronoun or noun followed by another noun, it is an adjective. For example, in 'his big office', 'big' is an adjective to describe 'office' or 'Ram's white shoes'.

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Between a Demonstrative & a Noun

- If a word comes between a demonstrative pronouns like 'this', 'that', 'these' or 'those' and a noun, it may be an adjective.
For example, in 'that aggressive moment', 'aggressive' is an adjective describing 'moment'.

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Between an Amount & a Noun

- If a word comes between an amount, including "some", "most", "all", or, "a few", and a noun, it is often an adjective. For example, in the phrase "a few ordinary things", 'ordinary' is an adjective describing ('things').

ADJECTIVES CAN ACT AS COMPL-

-EMENTS

- Adjectives can also act as complements. Not every complement is an adjective, but some can be complements in a sentence.

For Example : 1. She is intelligent.

2. He is sharp, witty & responsive.

Order of Adj. in Noun Phrases with articles & degree modifiers

- # when adjectives are used before the noun (attributive function) along with degree adverbs they require different positions for the adjective phrase, for example:

Indefinite Article	Degree Adverb	Adjective	Noun
a/an	fairly very moderately Extremely Absolutely	cold	day

UNIQUE CASES IN ORDERING WITH INTENSIFIERS

- # Quite: quite an expensive item
(a quite expensive item is also possible when we write, however not as common)
- # Rather: a rather painful decision
(rather a painful decision is also possible however not as common.)