

## Video 6.2 Question formation

Hi! In this video you are going to learn how to form questions correctly. Let's kick it off!

First of all, remember: you can't ask a question in English by just raising your intonation. Also, it is not very natural to ask a question by simply adding *yes*, *no*, or *not* to the end of a positive sentence. Please, try to avoid saying something like *The team globally distributed, yes?* or *You work across different time zones, not?* Technically, such constructions are not even questions, so you need to stay away from them. Remember: in English questions you need to use inversion. This means that the auxiliary verb should be used before the subject, not after it. And the subject is the person or thing that does the action in the sentence. Let's transform the not so good examples we had into better ones. You see that in both cases there's a verb before the subject:

Is the team globally distributed? (the verb is *is*)

Do you work across different time zones? (the verb is *do*)

These questions are called **yes/no** questions. You start with an auxiliary or a modal verb and then add the rest of the sentence. Let's take a look at some more examples:

- *Do you follow a specific methodology?* Here, *do* is the auxiliary verb, *you* is the subject, and *follow* is the main verb.

One more example:

- *Can you tell me about the team I will work with?* Here, *can* is the modal verb, *you* is the subject, and *tell* is the main verb.

Let's move on and look at another question type. It's the so-called **Wh- questions**. They begin with a question word, such as *who*, *what*, *where*, *why*, *when*, *whose*, *which*, *how*, etc. Here are some examples:

- *Where is the team based?*
- *What does a typical support request look like?*

So, what's the easiest way to build such questions in English?

The structure of almost every *wh*-question in English is based on the same model. All you need to do is remember this simple English phrase: **How do you do?**

The first word is usually a question word. In this case it's the word *how*. Then we use an auxiliary verb. That's the first *do* in the example. It is always followed by the subject, *you* in our case. Then comes the main verb *do*. If you'd like to add any other information, it will usually go after the main verb.

Here are some more examples:

- *What software development methodology do you use?*
- *Who will I work most closely with?*
- *How do you measure the success of a person in this position?*

Well, it's high time we moved on to practice!