

## GRAMMAR REVIEW: ASKING CLOSED AND OPEN QUESTIONS

### Closed questions – YES-NO questions.

These never start with a WH- word or 'HOW'.

They start with

- the verb 'to be' or (less often) 'to have'
- the auxiliary verb 'do / does / did'
- an auxiliary modal verb (can, could, might, would, should etc.)

Are you paying close attention?

Do you not remember learning this before?

Do you play games often?

Does your neighbour play as often as you do?

Did you watch a lot of television when you were young?

Should we be worried about the amount of time people spend playing games?

---

### Open questions – with WH- question words and HOW ....

They follow the same basic word order as closed questions (auxiliary verb followed by the subject), with a question word at the beginning.

#### WHAT (non-human subject) – the most commonly-used question word in the English language

What is that noise? What is your favourite game at the moment?

What does "gamification" **mean**?

What does neuroscience **say** about gaming?

What benefits do players **get** from playing?

Note that **the main verb** does not agree (*s'accorder*) with the subject. This is the job of the auxiliary.

#### WHICH (non-human or human subject) – choice

Which of these do you like better – the blue one or the red one?

Which activity do you spend most of your time on – your coursework or computer games?

#### WHO (human subject only)

Who is David talking to?

Who recommended that game?

Who did you see last night?

**WHY / WHERE /**

## A COUPLE OF EXERCISES TO REVISE QUESTIONS

**Exercise 1 – practice word order. Reshuffle these words to make them into questions.**

### CLOSED QUESTIONS

- |                               |                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. believe James you does     | <b>Does James believe you?</b>     |
| 2. you have about that heard  | <b>Have you heard about that?</b>  |
| 3. they recall can everything | <b>Can they recall everything?</b> |

### OPEN QUESTIONS

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. I here am why                  | <b>Why am I here?</b>                  |
| 2. many have how you games played | <b>How many games have you played?</b> |
| 3. David arrive did when          | <b>When did David arrive?</b>          |

**Exercise 2 – write questions which could give rise to these answers.**

**Question 1:** How long do you play games?

Answer: It depends. Sometimes I play for just an hour, sometimes I can binge play for hours on end!

**Question 2:** When did you started playing games seriously?

Answer: I started taking games really seriously about 10 years ago.

**Question 3:** How many players will we be?

Answer: There will be three of us playing.

**Question 4:** How much does a game cost?

Answer: Prices vary. Some are quite cheap but some are outrageously expensive.

**Question 5:** Are you addicted to games?

Answer: No, I wouldn't call it an addiction!

**Question 6:** How often do you play this game?

Answer: I play that particular game about twice a month, with a bunch of friends.

**Question 7:** Whose idea was it to start playing?

Answer: It was John's brother's idea, I think.

**Question 8:** Why are they playing this game?

Answer: They do it partly for pure escapism and partly just to be with other people.

**Question 9:** How did you know about this game?

Answer: My best friend introduced me to it.

**Question 10:** Where do you play this game, in a cybercafé?

Answer: I play at home. Cybercafés are a thing of the past.

<b>HELP (if needed) – you must use the question words WHOSE   WHERE   WHO   WHEN   WHY   HOW MUCH   HOW MANY   HOW LONG   HOW OFTEN . There is also one closed question in the exercise.</b>
--