

Questions 1

A

In questions we usually put the subject after the first verb:

subject + verb

verb + subject

Tom	will	→	will	Tom?
you	have	→	have	you?
the house	was	→	was	the house?

- ☐ **Will Tom** be here tomorrow?
- ☐ **Have you** been working hard?
- ☐ When **was the house** built?

Remember that the subject comes after the *first* verb:

- ☐ Is Katherine working today? (*not* Is working Katherine)

B

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

you live → do you live?
the film starts → does the film start?

- ☐ Do you **live** near here?
- ☐ What time **does** the film **start**?

In *past simple* questions, we use **did**:

you sold → **did** you **sell**?
the train stopped → **did** the train **stop**?

- ☐ 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. Compare:

who *object*

Emma phoned somebody .

object

Who **did** Emma **phone**?

who *subject*

somebody phoned Emma.

subject

Who **phoned** Emma?

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 meeting? (*not* did come)
- ☐ **Which bus goes** to the centre? (*not* does go)

C

Note the position of prepositions in questions beginning **Who/What/Which/Where ... ?**:

- ☐ **Who** do you want to speak **to**? ☐ **What** was the weather **like** yesterday?
- ☐ **Which** job has Tina applied **for**? ☐ **Where** are you **from**?

You can use *preposition* + **whom** in formal style:

- ☐ **To whom** do you wish to speak?

D

Isn't it ... ? / Didn't you ... ? etc. (negative questions)

We use negative questions especially to show surprise:

- ☐ **Didn't you** hear the doorbell? I rang it three times.

or when we expect the listener to agree with us:

- ☐ 'Haven't we met before?' 'Yes, I think we have.'

Note the meaning of **yes** and **no** in answers to negative questions:

- ☐ **Don't you** want to go? { **Yes.** (= Yes, I want to go)
No. (= No, I don't want to go)

Note the word order in negative questions beginning **Why ... ?**:

- ☐ **Why don't we** eat out tonight? (*not* Why we don't eat)
- ☐ **Why wasn't Emma** at work yesterday? (*not* Why Emma wasn't)