

Unit 49 Questions (1)

a We usually make questions by changing the word order: we put the *auxiliary verb* (AV) before the *subject* (S):

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <u>S</u> + <u>AV</u> | → | <u>AV</u> + <u>S</u> | |
| it is | → | is it? | Is it raining? |
| you can | → | can you? | When can you come and see us? |
| Tom has | → | has Tom? | Where has Tom gone? |

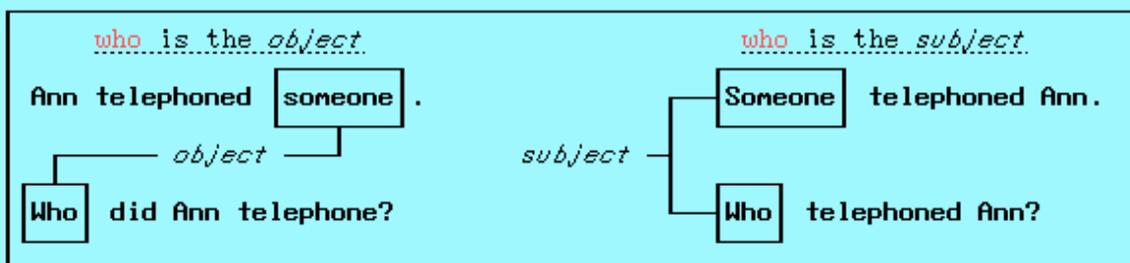
We make questions with the verb **be** in the same way:

they were → were they? **Were they** surprised?

b In *present simple* questions use **do/does**:

- **Do you like** music? (*not* 'like you')
- **Where does Jack live**? (*not* 'where lives Jack')
- **When did they get married**? (*not* 'when got they')
- **Why did Ann sell her car**? (*not* 'why sold Ann')

But be careful with **who/what/which** questions. If **who/what/which** is the *subject* of the sentence, do not use **do/does/did**. Compare:



In these examples **who/what/which** is the *subject*:

- **Who wants** something to eat? (*not* 'who does want')
- **Who invented** the steam engine? (*not* 'who did invent')
- **What happened** to you last night? (*not* 'what did happen')
- **Which switch operates** this machine? (*not* 'which switch does operate')

c *Negative questions*

We use negative questions especially:

to show surprise:

Didn't you hear the bell? I rang it four times.

in exclamations(!):

Doesn't that dress look nice! (= that dress looks nice)

when we expect the listener to agree with us:

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

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

- **Didn't Dave go** to Canada? — **Yes.** (= Yes, he went.)
- **No.** (= No, he didn't go.)

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

- **Why didn't you lock** the door? (*not* 'why you didn't lock')
- **Why don't we go out** for a meal? (*not* 'why we don't go')