

Unit 49

Questions (1)

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

S + AV	AV + S	
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?

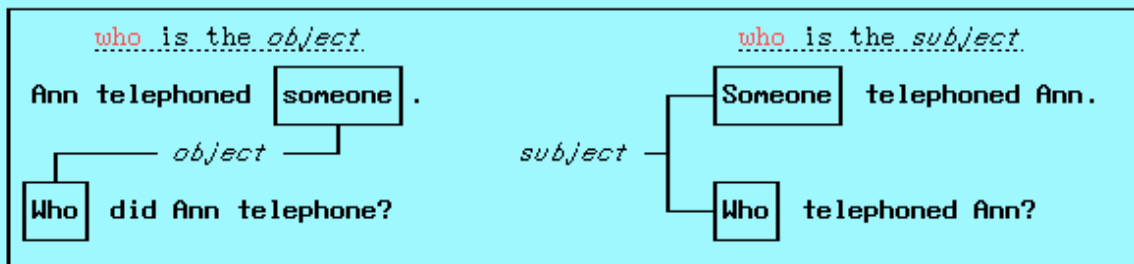
We make questions with the verb **be** in the same way:

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.

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in exclamations(!):
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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')