

9

Questions

yes /no questions; short answers; question words; question tags; agreeing

A Context listening



1 You are going to hear a telephone conversation between Mina and her father. Before you listen, look at the picture. Why do you think her father is phoning?

2 12 Listen and check if you were right.

3 12 Listen again and answer these questions.

- 1 What did Mina forget to do? charge her phone
- 2 How many times did her father text Mina and get no answer? _____
- 3 What had Mina promised to do? _____
- 4 How do Mina's parents feel when she's away at college? _____
- 5 What's happening at the weekend? _____
- 6 Where will they meet? _____
- 7 What are Mina and her father looking forward to? _____

4 12 Listen again and write down the question for each of these replies. Then circle the verbs in the questions and the replies.

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 <u>Have you charged your phone at last?</u> | Yes, I <u>have</u> . |
| 2 _____ | No, I haven't. |
| 3 _____ | Yes, I did. |
| 4 _____ | Yes, of course I do. |
| 5 _____ | Don't worry, I will. |
| 6 _____ | Yes, I can. |
| 7 _____ | Yes, it does. |
| 8 _____ | No, she doesn't. |
| 9 _____ | Oh yes, let's. |

B Grammar

1 Making yes/no questions

To make questions which can be answered with yes or no:

- we put the auxiliary verb before its subject:
You're going on holiday soon. → **Are you going on holiday soon?**
He's packed his case. → **Has he packed his case?**
- in the present simple or past simple (> see Units 1 and 2), we use the auxiliary verb *do/does* or *did* to make the question:
I like Italy. → **Do you like Italy?**
She prefers Greece. → **Does she prefer Greece?** (not *Does she prefers*)
They went to Corsica. → **Did they go to Corsica?**
- with the verb *to be*, we put *to be* before the subject:
They're in Madrid today. → **Are they in Madrid today?**
- with modal verbs, we put the modal verb before the subject:
We can stay here. → **Can we stay here?**

Negative questions often express surprise:

- Don't they like big cities?** (= I thought they liked big cities. Am I wrong?)
Can't she stay here? (= I thought she could stay here. Is that impossible?)

2 Short answers for yes/no questions

We answer a yes/no question using the same auxiliary or modal verb as in the question:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Is she staying in Spain?</i> | Yes, <i>she is.</i> / No, <i>she isn't.</i> |
| <i>Have you been to New York?</i> | Yes, <i>I have</i> / No, <i>I haven't.</i> |
| <i>Are you going to Greece?</i> | Yes, <i>I am.</i> / No, <i>I'm not.</i> |
| <i>Did they like the hotel?</i> | Yes, <i>they did.</i> / No, <i>they didn't.</i> |
| <i>Can we book our flight online?</i> | Yes, <i>we can.</i> / No, <i>we can't.</i> |
| <i>Should I contact the police?</i> | Yes, <i>you should.</i> / No, <i>you shouldn't.</i> |

3 Making questions with question words

When we use *What*, *Which* or *Who* to make questions about the **subject** of the verb, we do not change the word order (unlike yes/no questions):

- The pool looks too small.* → **What looks too small?** (Answer: The pool.)
This hotel offers the best view. → **Which hotel offers the best view?** (Answer: This hotel.)

In a subject question, *who* is always followed by a singular verb:

- Who is coming to your party?** (not *Who are coming?*)
unless two or more people are actually mentioned in the question:
Who are your favourite singers?

When we use *What*, *Which* or *Who* to make questions about the **object** of the verb, we change the word order (as in yes/no questions).

- This hotel offers the best view.* → **What does this hotel offer?** (Answer: The best view.)

Compare these subject and object questions:

- Molly's visiting Shirin.* → **Who's visiting Shirin?** *Molly.* (*Who* = subject)
Molly's visiting Shirin. → **Who's Molly visiting?** *Shirin.* (*Who* = object)

9 Questions

When we use other question words (*When, Why, How*, etc.) we change the word order in the same way as in *yes/no* questions:

They'll be in Madrid tomorrow. → *When will they be in Madrid?* (Answer: Tomorrow.)

We can't stay here because it's full. → *Why can't we stay here?* (Answer: Because it's full.)

She prefers to travel by train. → *How does she prefer to travel?* (Answer: By train.)

▲ Remember the difference between these questions with *like*:

What does Molly like? (= what does she enjoy?)

She likes dancing.

What does Molly look like? (= tell me about her appearance)

She's pretty.

What is Molly like? (= tell me about her character and/or appearance) *She's intelligent and pretty.*

4 Question tags

We often make a statement into a question by adding a question tag at the end. The verb in the tag must match the form of the auxiliary verb in the statement.

If the statement is positive, the tag is negative:

$\begin{matrix} + & & - \\ \text{They're going to Greece,} & \text{aren't they?} \end{matrix}$ (the speaker expects the answer *yes*)

If the statement is negative, the tag is positive:

$\begin{matrix} - & & + \\ \text{You aren't going to Greece,} & \text{are you?} \end{matrix}$ (the speaker expects the answer *no*)

We make question tags:

- with *do/does* or *did* for all verbs in the present simple or past simple except *to be*:

You like the seaside, don't you?

You don't like the seaside, do you?

Molly prefers Greece, doesn't she?

Molly doesn't prefer Greece, does she?

Your friends are in Madrid, aren't they?

Your friends aren't in Madrid now, are they?

- with the same auxiliary or modal as in the statement for verbs in other tenses:

They haven't arrived yet, have they?

We can stay here, can't we?

The question tag for *I am* is *aren't I?*:

I'm doing the right exercise, aren't I?

The question tag for *I'm not* is *am I?*:

I'm not in the right place, am I?

The question tag for *let's* is *shall we?*:

Let's go to France, shall we?

We use question tags:

- to check that what we have just said is true – our voice does not rise at the end:

They're going to Greece, aren't they? (= I'm almost certain they're going there, but will you confirm this?)

- to ask for information – our voice rises at the end:

They're going to Greece, aren't they? (= I'm not sure if that's where they're going – will you tell me?)

5 Agreeing with statements

To agree with statements we use *so* for positive statements and *neither* or *nor* for negative statements, and we put the verb before its subject. We can do this

- with the verb *to be* or with a modal:

He was really angry. So was I.

He can't speak French. Nor can we.

- with an auxiliary verb:

I went to Spain last year. So did they.

I don't want to have a fight about it. Neither do I.

C Grammar exercises

1 Choose the correct verb forms in these sentences.

- 1 Who *did make* / made the cake for the wedding?
- 2 We haven't got to do the washing-up, *do we* / *have we*?
- 3 Does your sister live with your parents or *she has got* / *has she got* a flat of her own?
- 4 Why *can't you walk* / *you can't walk* faster?
- 5 You went to school in Paris, *didn't you* / *haven't you*?
- 6 What *does* / *is* Julie's brother look like?
- 7 **A:** Can Sylvia come to the barbecue? **B:** No, she *doesn't* / *can't*.
- 8 Which shoes *do you prefer* / *prefer you* – the flat ones or the ones with high heels?
- 9 **A:** Are they going to record a new album? **B:** Yes, they *do* / *are*.
- 10 **A:** Who *did you invite* / *invited you* to the party? **B:** Robbie. He called me last week.

2 Correct the mistake in each of the following sentences by Cambridge First candidates.

- 1 Why ~~he doesn't~~ call me directly if he is having problems? doesn't he
- 2 How much costs it to study English in London? _____
- 3 What you are bringing on the trip with you? _____
- 4 What does annoy you most about your job? _____
- 5 Where was you going when you saw James? _____
- 6 Who did paint the picture you have on the wall? _____
- 7 Why you don't come to visit me next weekend? _____
- 8 How long it lasts the cookery course? _____

3 Add the correct question tags to these questions.

- 1 The teachers didn't see me, did they ?
- 2 He always forgets his homework, _____ ?
- 3 You would like to come with us, _____ ?
- 4 I've got plenty of time, _____ ?
- 5 Let's have another coffee, _____ ?
- 6 It couldn't possibly rain, _____ ?
- 7 Those men played really well, _____ ?
- 8 Molly will have to tell the truth, _____ ?
- 9 We can't stop here, _____ ?
- 10 You promise not to tell anyone, _____ ?

9 Questions

4 Read this article and write questions to match the answers given below.



LAST NIGHT BRIAN BAINES was celebrating his appointment as manager of Farley City Football Club. He says he is particularly happy to be going back to Farley, where he was born in 1978, after playing for a number of European teams.

Baines telephoned his wife Shirley as soon as he had signed the contract. He said that she is really pleased that their three children will be able to settle at schools in the city. Their many old friends are looking forward to welcoming them back to Farley.

- 1 What was Brian Baines celebrating last night?
His appointment as manager of Farley City Football Club.
- 2 _____
In Farley.
- 3 _____
His wife Shirley.
- 4 _____
As soon as he had signed the contract.
- 5 _____
Three.
- 6 _____
Because their children will be able to settle at schools in Farley.
- 7 _____
Their many old friends.

5 Match the statements with the short answers.

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1 I started learning English when I was ten. | A So am I. |
| 2 I didn't find it very easy. | B Neither will I. |
| 3 I was always trying to sing English songs. | C Nor did I. |
| 4 But I couldn't understand the words at first. | D So did I. |
| 5 I'm quite good at English now. | E So must I. |
| 6 I've read a couple of novels in English. | F So have I. |
| 7 I won't have many problems in England, I guess. | G Neither could I. |
| 8 I must do my homework now. | H So was I. |

Listening Part 1

▶ 13 You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 You overhear a girl leaving a voicemail message. Why is she calling?</p> <p>A to issue an invitation
B to ask for some advice
C to change an arrangement</p> <p>2 You hear two friends talking about the weekend. What is Martin annoyed about?</p> <p>A The adventure camp wasn't what he expected.
B He didn't have any friends with him.
C His brother hadn't explained his plans fully.</p> <p>3 You hear two students talking about a school project. What do they decide about their projects?</p> <p>A They will do the project together.
B They will do projects in the same field.
C They need more time to plan their projects.</p> <p>4 You hear two people talking about a gym. What do they agree about?</p> <p>A It should provide a wider range of classes.
B It should have better equipment.
C It should have longer opening hours.</p> | <p>5 You hear a girl talking about a website. What pleased her about it?</p> <p>A how easy it is to use
B how detailed the information is
C how up to date it is</p> <p>6 You hear a man talking about his job. What does he dislike about it?</p> <p>A working at night
B getting no exercise
C dealing with customers</p> <p>7 You hear a teacher talking to a group of students. What will the weather be like tomorrow?</p> <p>A It will get warmer during the day.
B There will be some rain in the morning.
C There might be thunderstorms later.</p> <p>8 You hear two people talking about someone they met. What do they agree about?</p> <p>A He talked too much.
B He had interesting things to say.
C He was amusing.</p> |
|---|---|

Grammar focus task

These sentences are from the recording. Complete the missing question tags.

- 1 You know what I mean, don't you ?
- 2 That wasn't why we went, _____ ?
- 3 We can help each other out, _____ ?
- 4 They'd get more people using the gym then, _____ ?
- 5 You've looked at the websites Mrs Wilson recommended, _____ ?
- 6 You're not working today, _____ ?
- 7 You won't forget them, _____ ?
- 8 You didn't really think his jokes were funny, _____ ?



Exam tip

The question tells you who the people are and exactly what to listen for.