

Unit 9: MAKING QUESTIONS

Question formation is usually different from the formation of statements. We either change the word order or use **do**.

With **be** (Unit 16)

Put the verb before the subject.

STATEMENT	They are French.
QUESTION	Are they French?
STATEMENT	His father's name is Patrick.
QUESTION	What is his father's name?

With one-word verb formations

Put the correct form of the verb **do** before the subject.

Present tense: 3rd person singular (Unit 2)

STATEMENT	She works in a bank.
QUESTION	Does she work in a bank?

Present tense: all other persons

STATEMENT	They live near the airport.
QUESTION	Where do they live?

Past tense:

STATEMENT	They left last week.
QUESTION	When did they leave?

NOTICE: After **do**, use only the base form of the verb.

We say: Does he **work**? NOT *does he works*
Did she **go**? NOT *did she goes*

Do can also be the lexical verb (Unit 3) of a sentence. For example:

We say: What **do** you **do**?
What **does** he **do**?
What **did** she **do**?

With other verb formations

Put the first word (only) of the verb before the subject.

STATEMENT	They are watching television.
QUESTION	Are they watching television?
STATEMENT	I can see the plane.
QUESTION	Can you see the plane?
STATEMENT	She has gone to England to study.
QUESTION	Why has she gone to England?
STATEMENT	The new airport will be built here.
QUESTION	Where will the new airport be built ?
STATEMENT	It has been snowing for two hours.
QUESTION	How long has it been snowing ?

NOTICE: It does not matter how many words there are in the subject. One word of the verb always goes before it.

We say: **Do** the people who live on the corner **have** another house?
 When **will** the new terminal for the Toronto Airport **be finished**?

BUT if the question word is also the subject, we do not put anything before it (Unit 10).

Word agreement

We normally use 'negative words' (Unit 5.4) with questions:

Have you got any money?	NOT <i>some</i>
Have you finished yet ?	NOT <i>already</i>

But if we think or hope that the answer to the question will be **yes**, we can use 'affirmative words':

Have you got some money?	You are my friend, and I want to borrow some from you.
Have you finished already ?	It seems to me that you are finished, but this surprises me.

It is better to ask **Would you like some** coffee? Because we hope the answer will be **yes**. It is friendly.