

# English Grammar: Question Structure

## 1) Using the verb “to be”

To make a question in English with the verb “to be”, we simply change the order of the subject and the verb. Here are some examples (the subject is **blue** and the verb “to be” is **red**):

### Affirmation

- **You are** married.
- **He is** angry.
- **They are** crazy.
- **He was** sick.
- **You were** at the bank.
- **You will be** at home tomorrow.
- **He has been** worried recently.

### Question

- Are you** married?
- Is he** angry?
- Why **are they** crazy?
- When **was he** sick?
- Why **were you** at the bank?
- Where **will you be** tomorrow?
- Why **has he been** worried recently?

If we use the verb “to be” as an auxiliary verb, the same rule applies (the main verb is **bold**):

- **You are going** to be free.                      When **are you going** to be free?
- **He was watching** CNN.                      Which channel **was he watching**?

**Exercise 1.** Create questions from the following affirmations:

1. You are French. \_\_\_\_\_ ?
2. She is sad. Why \_\_\_\_\_ ?
3. It is raining. Where \_\_\_\_\_ ?
4. He was at home. When \_\_\_\_\_ ?
5. You were at home yesterday. Where \_\_\_\_\_ ?
6. She was angry yesterday. Why \_\_\_\_\_ ?
7. He is going to study medicine. What \_\_\_\_\_ ?
8. They will be married next year. When \_\_\_\_\_ ?
9. She has been stressed recently. Why \_\_\_\_\_ ?
10. They are speaking English. Why \_\_\_\_\_ ?

## 2) Using other verbs

To make a question in English using other verbs, we must use an auxiliary verb. Here are some examples (the auxiliary verbs are **green**):

### Affirmation

- You like chocolate.
- You went to the park.
- I like Indian food.
- We arrive soon.
- They stayed in a big hotel.
- Peter goes to school by bus.
- He washes his car every day.
- It costs five hundred dollars.
- The meeting lasted two hours.

### Question

- Do you like chocolate?
- Did you go to the park?
- What type of food **do** you like?
- When **do** we arrive?
- Where **did** they stay?
- How **does** Peter go to school?
- How often **does** he wash his car?
- How much **does** it cost?
- How long **did** the meeting last?

**Exercise 2.** Create questions from the following affirmations:

1. You speak German. \_\_\_\_\_ ?
2. He likes blue. Which color \_\_\_\_\_ ?
3. She lives in California. Where \_\_\_\_\_ ?
4. They celebrate New Year in February. When \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 5a. He sleeps in the garage. Why \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 5b. He slept in the garage. Why \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 5c. He slept in the garage. Where \_\_\_\_\_ ?
6. You follow Pica Pau on Instagram. Who \_\_\_\_\_ ?
7. He goes to the park. How often \_\_\_\_\_ ?
8. He supports Liverpool. Which football team \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**Exercise 3.** Online exercises:

<https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises/questions/mistakes.htm>

<https://test-english.com/grammar-points/a1/questions/>

More information: <https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/grammar/frage.htm>

Suggested video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4yWEt0OSpg> (10 mins)