

HS8151 COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH

LECTURE NOTES

UNIT I

**WH questions:**

Wh-questions begin with what, when, where, who, whom, which, whose, why and how. We use them to ask for information. The answer cannot be yes or no:

A: **When** will you finish your B.E?

B: Next year.

A: **What** are you doing now?

B: I am teaching Grammar.

QUESTION WORDS	MEANING	EXAMPLES
WHO	Person	Who's that? That's Nancy.
WHERE	Place	Where do you live? In Boston
WHY	Reason	Why do you sleep early? Because I've got to get up early
WHEN	Time	When do you go to work? At 7:00
HOW	Manner	How do you go? By car
WHAT	object, idea or action	What do you do? I am an engineer
WHICH	Choice	Which one do you prefer? The red one.
WHOSE	Possession	Whose is this book? It's Alan's.
WHOM	object of the verb	Whom did you meet? I met the manager.
WHAT KIND	Description	What kind of music do you like? I like quiet songs

<b>HOW MANY</b>	quantity (countable)	How many students are there? There are twenty.
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<b>HOW MUCH</b>	amount, price (uncountable)	How much time have we got? Ten minutes
<b>HOW LONG</b>	duration, length	How long did you stay in that hotel? For two weeks.
<b>HOW OFTEN</b>	Frequency	How often do you go to the gym? Twice a week.
<b>HOW FAR</b>	Distance	How far is your school? It's one mile far.
<b>HOW OLD</b>	Age	How old are you? I'm 16.

### WH Questions Structure:

WH questions in the simple present use “do” or “be”.

#### Do

**WH + DO/DOES + SUBJECT + VERB**

examples:

- Where do you work?
- When does she wake up?
- Who is your brother?

#### Be

**WH + BE + SUBJECT**

examples:

- Where are you from?
- Who is your intimate friend?
- Which is your class room?

### Open and Closed Questions:

In English there are two main types of questions: open and closed. Closed questions have simple answers with few options. Open questions have many options.

WH Questions are similar to YES/NO questions, but they have WH words at the start.

an example of yes/no question:

- *Are you from Kerala?*

similar question, but with a WH word:

- *Where are you from?*

The first question had an answer of yes or no (Yes, I am from Canada). The second question could have many different answers (Japan, Brazil, Poland, etc.). This is the difference. One is open and the other is closed.

some example questions and answers:

- Where are you from?  
I am from India.
- What is your name?  
My name is Kannan.
- When do you wake up?  
I wake up at 5:30 am.
- Why are you angry?  
I am angry because I am hungry.

With the explanation and examples, one can begin using who, what, where, when, why, and how questions. This is needed very often to communicate in English.

### HOW TO UNDERSTAND VERBS IN DIFFERENT TENSES?

<b>DO</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>GO</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>GO</b>
<b>DOES</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>GO</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>GOES</b>
<b>DID</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>GO</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>WENT</b>

Asking questions:

- If you ask about the subject of the sentence, simply add the question word at the beginning:

#### Example:

Krishnan writes good poems. — What does Krishnan write?

- If you ask about the predicate of the sentence (the part of a sentence which contains the verb and gives information about the subject), there are three options:
- If there is a helping (auxiliary) verb that precedes the main verb (for example: can, is, are, was, were, will, would...), add the question word and invert the subject and the helping (auxiliary) verb.

#### Examples:

He can speak Hindi. — What can he speak?

They are leaving tonight. — When are they leaving?

- If you ask about the predicate and there is no helping (auxiliary) verb and the verb is "to be", simply add the question word and invert the subject and the verb.

**Example:**

The play was interesting. — How was the play?

- If there is no helping (auxiliary) verb in the predicate and the main verb is not "to be", add the auxiliary "do" in the appropriate form.

**Examples:**

They go to the movies every Saturday. — Where do they go every Saturday?

He wakes up early. — When does he wake up?

They sent a letter. — What did they send?

**EXERCISE:**

1. The boys are hiding under Tom's bed.
2. My sister prefers porridge for breakfast.
3. Yesterday Monica and Shanthi went to the swimming pool.
4. The plane is landing at the airport.
5. The telephone is ringing.
6. Arjun has to stop because of a security check.
7. Anbu's new mountain bike costs €1000.
8. At sunset Prakash is walking along the beach.
9. She never cleans the van.
10. Kannan and Kamala are playing shuttle cork in the garden.
11. They are running home.
12. Mr.Gobakumar has been living in Nagercoil for ten years.
13. Rathika likes her new job very much.

**ANSWERS:**

1. Where are the boys hiding?
2. Who prefers porridge for breakfast?
3. When did Monica and Shanthi go to the swimming pool?
4. Where is the plane landing?
5. What is ringing?
6. Why does Arjun have to stop?
7. How much does Anbu's new mountain bike cost?
8. Who is walking along the beach at sunset?
9. What does she never clean?
10. What are Kannan and kamala playing in the garden?
11. Where are they running?
12. Who has been living in Nagercoil for ten years?

13. How does Rathika like her new job?

### YES/NO QUESTIONS

Yes / No questions are those questions that expect 'yes' or 'no' as answer. These questions do not take the question words when, what, where etc.

**For example,**

**Question:** Are you hungry?

**Answer:** No, I'm not.

Yes / No questions are used to check information or ask for confirmation.

'Are you coming with us?' 'Yes.'

- 'Has he returned the car?' 'No, he hasn't.'
- 'Do you live in Chennai?' 'No, I don't.'
- 'Does she speak English?' 'Yes, she does.'
- 'Did you meet Nadhan yesterday?' 'No, I didn't.'

Yes / No questions in different tenses:

#### Present Simple

- 'Do you speak English?' 'Yes, I do.'
- 'Does she speak English?' 'No, she doesn't.'

#### Present continuous

- 'Are you coming with us?' 'Yes, I am.'
- 'Is it raining?' 'Yes, it is.'
- 'Is it snowing?' 'No, it isn't.'

#### Present Perfect

- 'Have you received the letter?' 'Yes, I have.'
- 'Has he returned from Mumbai?' 'No, he hasn't.'

#### Past Simple

- 'Did you know the answer?' 'No, I didn't.'
- 'Did he get the letter?' 'Yes, he did.'

#### Past Continuous

- 'Were you sleeping then?' 'Yes, I was.'
- 'Was he reading his lessons?' 'No, he wasn't.'

## Future Simple

- 'Will you come with me?' 'Yes, I will.'
- 'Will you help me?' 'No, I won't.'

### RULES:

1. Making Yes/No Questions with the BE Verb (am/are/is/was/were)

**EXAMPLE:** 'He is tall.'

This sentence starts with the subject and the verb comes next. This is called sentence word order in English.

To make a question from a sentence with the BE verb, we use question word order. It can be done by switching the subject and the BE verb around:

- He is tall. → Is he tall? (In the question, the verb is first and then the subject)
- They are American. → Are they American?
- The children are at school. → Are the children at school?

The rules are the same for the past tense.

- It was nice. → Was it nice?
- Mumbai was expensive. → Was Mumbai expensive?
- We were late. → Were we late?

2. Making Yes/No Questions with Auxiliary/Modal Verbs

An auxiliary verb is also called a helping verb. These are short words that 'help' the main verb create tense. For example,

### EXAMPLE

I have written the report. (**Present Perfect tense**)

Here, 'have' is the auxiliary verb, which is helping the main verb 'write' change into the present perfect tense.

### examples:

- Have you completed your Home work?
- Have you written your Examination?

Sentences always have a main verb. But if a sentence also has a helping verb (auxiliary or modal), then switch the subject and the helping verb around. For example,

- He will come. → Will he come?
- They are visiting Paris. → Are they visiting Paris?
- She has done the housework. → Has she done the housework

Sometimes, a sentence can have two helping verbs. If this is the case, change the order of the subject and first helping verb in the same way. Then after the subject, put the second helping verb.

- John has been fired. → Has John been fired? (HelpingVerb1 + Subject + HelpingVerb2+ Main Verb)
- They will be hired. → Will they be hired?
- The train is going to arrive. → Is the train going to arrive?
- The printer was being repaired. → Was the printer being repaired?

### 3. Making Yes/No Questions without the BE verb or an Auxiliary/Modal Verb (Use Do!)

There are some sentences that have neither be verb nor auxiliary verb. For example,

- A. I have a problem. (The main verb is have, and there is no helping verb)
- B. She loves tennis. (The main verb is loves, and there is no helping verb)
- C. They found the answer. (Again, there is only the main verb found.)

Add the verb 'Do'!

'Do' is another helping verb that is added to make questions when there is no auxiliary verb already (or BE Verb). The above sentences become the following questions:

- A. I have a problem. → Do you have a problem?
- B. She loves tennis. → Does she love tennis?
- C. They found the answer. → Did they find the answer?

Note two things. Firstly, in question 2, do changes to Does in the question because the subject is 'she', which is the third person singular, so we add 's' to the auxiliary verb 'do' (but not to the main verb).

Secondly, sentence #3 is in the past tense (found), so we change the helping verb "Do" to the past tense (= Did) and keep the main verb in its base form (the present tense).

Did they find the answer? (Correct)

Did they found the answer? (Incorrect = You don't need the past tense twice.)

Be Careful: distinguishing Main Verbs from Helping Verbs

It's important to remember the difference between a main verb and a helping verb because verbs like 'do/have/will' can be a main verb and an auxiliary verb:

- A. She has a job. (present simple) → Does she have a job?
- B. She has had a job. (present perfect) → Has she had a job?

In #1, the main verb is 'has' and there is no auxiliary verb, so we add 'Does' to make the question 'Does she have a job?'

In #2, the main verb is 'had', and there is an auxiliary verb 'has'. So we switch the sentence order and put the auxiliary verb before the subject, to make the question, 'Has she had a job'?

Final Note: Use 'Do' when 'Have' is the Main Verb

Add 'Do' to make a question when the main verb is 'have'.

- I have a car = Do you have a car?
- I have a problem = Do you have a problem?

**EXERCISE:**

- 1.He loves this town.
- 2.They like Hockey.
- 3.She can drive a bus.
- 4.They are nice.
- 5.They went to the swimming pool.
- 6.He wastes her money on gambling.
- 7.He decided to leave his wife.
- 8.She wakes up early.
- 9.They should revise their lessons.
- 10.He was born in this town.

**ANSWERS:**

1. Does he love this town?
2. Do they like Hockey?
3. Can she drive a bus?
4. Are they nice?
5. Did they go to the swimming pool?
6. Does he waste her money on gambling?
7. Did he decide to leave his wife?
8. Does she wake up early?
9. Should they revise their lessons?
10. Was he born in this town?



