

## question formation

- 1 **Should we** buy her a present? How long **have** **you** been waiting? How many children **does your sister** have? **1 2))**
- 2 Why **didn't you** like the film? **Isn't this** a beautiful place?
- 3 **What** are they talking **about**? **Who** does this bag belong to?
- 4 **Who lives** in that house? **How many people follow** you on Twitter?

- 1 We make questions with modal verbs and with tenses where there is an auxiliary verb (*be, have, etc.*) by inverting the subject and the modal / auxiliary verb. With the present and past simple, we add the auxiliary verb *do / does* or *did* before the subject.
- 2 We often use negative questions to show surprise or when we expect somebody to agree with us.
- 3 If a verb is followed by a preposition, the preposition comes at the end of the question, not at the beginning NOT *About what are you talking?*
  - We often just use the question word and the preposition, e.g. **A** *I'm thinking.* **B** *What about?*
- 4 When *who / what / which, etc.* is the **subject** of the question, we **don't** use *do / did*, e.g. *Who wrote this?* NOT *Who did write this?*

## indirect questions


Could you tell me **what time the shop next door** **1 3))** **opens?** Do you know **if (whether)** **Mark's coming to the meeting?**

We use indirect questions when we want to ask a question in a more polite way, and begin with *Can / Could you tell me...?* or when we introduce a question with, e.g. *Do you know...? Do you remember...?*

Compare

*What time does the shop next door open?* (direct question), and *Could you tell me what time the shop next door opens?* (indirect question)

- In indirect questions the order is subject + verb. *Can you tell me where **it is**?* NOT *Can you tell me where **is it**?*
- We don't use *do / did* in the second part of the question. *Do you know where he lives?* NOT *where does he live.*
- You can use *if* or *whether* in questions without a question word (*What, How many, etc.*) and after *Can you tell me, Do you know, etc.*

 **Other expressions followed by the word order of indirect questions**

The word order of indirect questions is used after:

I wonder..., e.g. **I wonder** why they didn't come.

I'm not sure..., e.g. **I'm not sure** what time it starts.

I can't remember..., e.g. **I can't remember** where I left my phone.

I want to know..., e.g. **I want to know** what time you're coming home.

Do you have any idea...?, e.g. **Do you have any idea if (whether)** James is on holiday this week?

a Order the words to make questions.



tomorrow can't Why come you ?  
Why can't you come tomorrow?

- 1 I Should her tell I feel how ?
- 2 friend known long best have How you your ?
- 3 tell when you train next leaves the Could me ?
- 4 housework family in Who your the does ?
- 5 are What about you thinking ?
- 6 at don't weekend you What doing the like ?
- 7 music to does What Jane kind like listening of ?
- 8 you time film know finishes Do what the ?
- 9 class students yesterday to many came How ?
- 10 you remember is where Do the restaurant ?

b Complete the questions with the words in brackets.

Where did you go on holiday last year? (you / go)

- 1 How often \_\_\_\_\_ exercise? (you / usually do)
- 2 Who \_\_\_\_\_ *Oliver Twist*? (write)
- 3 Could you tell me how much \_\_\_\_\_?  
(this book / cost)
- 4 I can't remember where \_\_\_\_\_ my car this morning. (I / park)
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ your trip to Paris last weekend?  
(you / enjoy)
- 6 What kind of work \_\_\_\_\_? (your sister / do)
- 7 Who \_\_\_\_\_ the last biscuit? (eat)
- 8 Do you know what time \_\_\_\_\_ on a Saturday?  
(the swimming pool / open)
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ the present you gave her? (your sister / not like)
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ play your music so loud? I can't concentrate. (you / have to)