

Speak Active English

How to ask questions

Take a look at the different structures for questions, then make up a few sentences

When we ask questions in English we may use different types of auxiliaries. Such auxiliaries tell us about the tense and the person.

E.g. **does she drive?** In this example “**does**” means that the tense is present simple, and the person is singular, “**she**”.

Wh-questions (questions beginning with **when**, **where**, **why**, etc)

E.g. **what did he do?**

Structures

Auxiliary + subject + bare infinitive verb?

Do/does/did + my sister (she) + go there?

Can/could/must/should/will/would/may/might/shall + your neighbours (they) + come to the party?

Wh-q (when/what/why/how/where/who) + auxiliary + subject + bare infinitive verb?

When + did + you + do + it?

Who + does + she + live with?

Write down a few questions using the structures above

Auxiliary (be) + subject + verb-ing?

Are/is/am + they/she/I + working hard enough?

Was/were + he/we + driving at that time?

Wh-q (when/what/why/how/where/who) + auxiliary (be) + subject + verb-ing?

What + are + you + talking about?

Write down a few questions using the structures above

Auxiliary (have/has/had) + subject + past participle?

Have + your friends (they) + gone there before?

Had + she + been there?

Auxiliary (have/has/had) + subject + past participle (been) + verb-ing?

Have + you + been + waiting for a long time?

Wh-q (when/what/why/how/where/who) + auxiliary (have/has/had) + subject + past participle?

Who + has + he + spoken to?

Write down a few questions using the structures above

Be + subject + rest?

Are + you + tired (adjective)?

Is + she + here (adverb)?

Wh-q (when/what/why/how/where)+ be + subject + rest?

Where + are + they?

Write down a few questions using the structures above

In the following structure with “**who**” we **DO NOT** use auxiliaries **DO**, **DOES** or **DID**.

Who + verb? Here we look for the **SUBJECT**.

Who + went (past) there? **She/I** went there.

Who + likes (present simple) + ice-cream? **She** does. **They** do.

Who + modal + infinitive verb? Looking for a subject

Who + can + do + me a favour? **He** can. **They** can.

Compare:

Who did **she** talk to? **She** talked to **him**. “**Who**” looks for the object “**him**”

Who talked to **him**? **She** did. “**Who**” looks for the subject “**she**”

Write down a few questions using the structures above