**Direct Questions**

**YES/NO questions**

The simplest form of asking questions is asking **YES/NO questions**. Note that these questions always begin with an auxiliary verb (am/are/is/was/were, do/does/did, have/has/had) or a modal (will, can, could...).

I am late. **Am** I late?

You are their client. **Are** you their client?

She is a travel agent. **Is** she a travel agent.

She is writing an email. **Is** she writing an email?

He was a receptionist there last year. **Was** he a receptionist there last year?

He was swimming the whole day. **Was** he swimming the whole day?

They were very polite. **Were** they very polite?

They were travelling by plane. **Were** they travelling by plane?

They work as tour guides. **Do** they work as tour guides?

He lives in New York. **Does** he live in New York?

She booked a holiday in Spain. **Did** she book a holiday in Spain?

They have visited the Louvre. **Have** they visited the Louvre?

She has paid the full price. **Has** she paid the full price?

He had booked the excursion before we arrived. **Had** he booked the excursion before he arrived?

She will show them the collection in the gallery. **Will** she show them the collection in the gallery?

They can tour the park on their own. **Can** they tour the park on their own?

They could pay by credit card. **Could** they pay by credit card?

**WH-questions**

If questions begin with a question word (what, where, when, why...) we call them

**WH-questions**, although sometimes a question word does not begin with wh- (e.g. how much, how many, how...). Note that the question word is always followed by an auxiliary verb or a modal verb.

I am in a foreign country. **Where am** I?

You are in a new town. **Where are** you?

She is 24 years old. **How old is** she?

He is reading a brochure. **What is** he reading?

He was very worried because of the storm. **Why was** he very worried?

They were our tour guides. **Who were** they?

They work in the Ritz-Carlton in Berlin. **Where do** they work?

She lives in Paris. **Where does** she live?

They traveled to Greece last year. **When did** they travel to Greece?

They have spent $100. **How much money have** they spent?

She has bought a new swimsuit and a beach towel. **What has** she bought?

He had visited London before he came to Brussels. **Which city had** he visited before he came to Brussels.

They can stay here for five days. **How long can** they stay here?

They could speak French and German. **Which languages could** they speak?

**WH-questions with prepositions**

In very formal written English prepositions can be used before the question word.

eg. He travelled with his wife. **With whom** did he travel?

However, in spoken English and everyday life, prepositions come to the end of the question.

e.g. He travelled with his wife. **Who** did he travel **with**?

She is travelling with her friends. **Who** is she travelling **with**?

They were interested in skiing holidays? **What** type of holidays were they interested **in**?

He was looking for an affordable appartment. **What** was he looking **for**?

They live with two flatmates. **Who** do they live **with**?

He has invested in real etate. **Wha**t has he invested **in**?

They can borrow a car from Jenny. **Who** can they borrow a car **from**?

*Listening 1*

You can see more examples online using the following resource:

Questions with prepositions from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtWKxpbR-qQ>

**Indirect questions**

Indirect questions are used when we want to sound more polite. Instead of asking directly we start the question with polite expressions such as:

**I wonder... Can you tell me... Could you please tell me...**

In indirect questions there is **no inversion** in the main question. Study the examples:

Who **are** you **travelling with**?

Could you please tell me **who you are travelling with**?

Where **did** you **lose** your passport?

Do you mind telling me **where you lost your passport**?

**Do** you **have** a visa?

Can you please tell me **if you have** a visa?

*Listening 2*

You can learn more about indirect questions if you watch a video from BBC English about polite questions at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqp-LF6GelY>

*Listening 3*

Listen to the audio file with the passenger survey. Write down all the questions you can hear.

*Exercises:*

I Make direct questions so that the underlined part of the sentence is the answer. Verbs are put in bold so that you recognize the tense more easily.

1. They usually **go** to Spain for summer holiday.
2. She **has** three restaurants.
3. Ricardo **said** that he won`t be here on Thursday.
4. They **are negotiating** the price.
5. He **has earned** millions of dollars.
6. They **should improve** their service.
7. They **are going to visit** us on Sunday.
8. He **lives** with his flatmates.
9. They communicated with foreign guests.
10. She **is interested** in adventure holidays.
11. She **should write** to the manager.
12. They **will be** responsible for domestic tourists.
13. They **talked** about discounts.
14. She **is looking** at the documents.
15. The price **depends** on the number of guests in the hotel.
16. They **come** from Norway.
17. 70% of the French **support** that idea.
18. Hiking holidays **are** the most popular in the region.
19. She **flies** to New York twice a year.
20. The hostel **is** 2km from the city center.
21. They **have written** four books together.
22. He **feels proud of** his achievement.
23. They **have been informed** about the discounted rates.
24. They **will have earned** 500 dollars by then.
25. He **would like to make more time for** his hobbies.

II Make indirect questions starting with a polite expression:

1. What is the time?
2. When did you arrive?
3. Where are you staying?
4. How much cash do you have with you?
5. Are you a student?