

## question formation

- 1 How long **have you** been waiting? How many children **does your sister** have? **Should we** buy her a present? 1.3
- 2 Why **didn't you** like the film? **Isn't this** a beautiful place? **Don't you** have to be at school today?
- 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 tenses where there is an auxiliary verb (*be, have, etc.*) and with modal verbs (*should, must, etc.*) by inverting the subject and the auxiliary / modal 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 when we expect somebody to agree with us, or to check whether something is true.
- 3 If a verb is normally followed by a preposition, e.g. *talk about sth*, 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 questions in the present or past simple, 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 opens**? 1.4  
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. We begin with a phrase such as *Can / Could you tell me...? Do you know...? Do you think...? Do you remember...? Would you mind telling me...? Do you have any idea...?*
- Compare:  
*What time does the post office open?* (direct question) and *Could you tell me what time the post office 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 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'd like to know...*, e.g. **I'd like to know** what time you're coming home.

## 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 are What about you thinking ?
- 5 at do weekend you What doing the like ?
- 6 music to does What Jane kind like listening of ?
- 7 you time film know finishes Do what the ?
- 8 class students yesterday to many came How ?
- 9 you remember is where Do the restaurant ?
- 10 housework family in Who your the does ?

## 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 Saturdays? (the swimming pool / open)
- 9 Why \_\_\_\_\_ the present you gave her? (your sister / not like)
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ play your music so loud? I can't concentrate. (you / have to)