

Subject and object questions

Lesson code: S8IP-5589-QFVL

INTERMEDIATE

1 Presentation

There are two ways of asking questions in English: using **subject questions** and **object questions**.

Subject questions	Object questions
We use subject questions when we ask about the subject of a sentence:	We use object questions when we ask about the object of a sentence:
Somebody is knocking at the door. Who is knocking at the door?	Paul is reading something . What is Paul reading?
Something started the fire. What started the fire?	John tried to call somebody . Who did John try to call?

Rules for forming subject and object questions

Subject questions are easy! There is no change in the word order of the sentence. Just replace the subject with the question word (**who, where, what, why**, etc.):

Somebody won the match. **Who** won the match?

With **object questions**, we change the word order.

If there is a 'helping verb' (*auxiliary verb*), for example **will, was, have** and **can**, we put the subject after the *auxiliary verb*:

Allie will be at home tonight. Where **will Allie** be tonight?
You can speak three languages. How many languages **can you** speak?

If there is more than one *auxiliary verb*, we reverse the position of the subject and the first *auxiliary verb*:

Paul has been meeting someone. Who **has Paul been** meeting?

In **present simple** questions, we use **do/does**:

They **live** in Spain. Where **do they live**?
David **eats** yogurt for breakfast. What **does David eat** for breakfast?

In **past simple** questions, we use **did**:

They **stayed** at a cheap hotel. Where **did they stay**?

If the verb is followed by a **preposition**, the preposition normally goes at the end of the question:

Janet came **with** Michael. Who did Janet come **with**?



2 Practice 1

Complete the dialogue below.

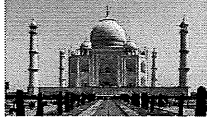


Photo by: Muhammad Mahdi Karim

Tour guide: Welcome to the Taj Mahal. _____¹ (you / have / any questions?)

Visitor: _____² (how old / the building / is?)

Tour guide: The Taj Mahal was built in 1631.

Visitor: _____³ (who)

Tour guide: The construction of the building was ordered by the emperor Shah Jahan.

Visitor: _____⁴ (why)

Tour guide: He decided to build it because of the death of his wife. He was very sad.

Visitor: _____⁵ (how)

Tour guide: She died while giving birth.

Visitor: _____⁶ (how long)

Tour guide: It took 22 years to build.

Visitor: _____⁷ (how many people)

Tour guide: 20,000 workers.

Visitor: _____⁸ (how many people)

Tour guide: The Taj Mahal attracts 2-4 million visitors every year.

3 Practice 2

Make questions like in the example below.

1. **He** visited me yesterday. Who visited you yesterday ?
2. I found **it** under my bed. What
3. **She** lent me some money. Who
4. I lent money to **him**. Who
5. Jonathon is going **there** this weekend. Where
6. I was doing **it** this morning. What
7. **They** have eaten all the cake. Who
8. My interview finished **then**. When

