

## Unit 9: MAKING QUESTIONS

Question formation is usually different from the formation of statements. We either change the word order or use **do**.

### With **be** (Unit 16)

Put the verb before the subject.

**STATEMENT**

They are paediatricians.

**QUESTION**

**Are** they paediatricians?

**STATEMENT**

His father's name is Patrick.

**QUESTION**

What **is** his father's name?

### With one-word verb formations

Put the correct form of the verb **do** before the subject.

Present tense: 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular (Unit 2)

**STATEMENT**

She works in a doctor's office.

**QUESTION**

**Does** she work in a doctor's office?

Present tense: all other persons

**STATEMENT**

They live near the hospital.

**QUESTION**

Where **do** they live?

Past tense:

**STATEMENT**

They left last week.

**QUESTION**

When **did** they leave?

**NOTICE:** After **do**, use only the base form of the verb.

We say: Does he **work**? NOT *does he works*

Did she **go**? NOT *did she goes*

**Do** can also be the lexical verb (Unit 3) of a sentence. For example:

We say: What **do** you **do**?

What **does** he **do**?

What **did** she **do**?

### With other verb formations

Put the first word (only) of the verb before the subject.

STATEMENT	They are studying acupuncture.
QUESTION	Are they <b>studying</b> acupuncture?
STATEMENT	I can see the chiropractic clinic.
QUESTION	Can you <b>see</b> the chiropractic clinic?
STATEMENT	She has gone to England to study.
QUESTION	Why <b>has</b> she <b>gone</b> to England?
STATEMENT	The new health centre will be built here.
QUESTION	Where <b>will</b> the health centre <b>be built</b> ?
STATEMENT	It has been snowing for two hours.
QUESTION	How long <b>has</b> it <b>been snowing</b> ?

**NOTICE:** It does not matter how many words there are in the subject. One word of the verb always goes before it.

We say: **Do** the people who live on the corner **have** another house?  
When **will** the new terminal for the Toronto Airport **be finished**?

**BUT** if the question word is also the subject, we do not put anything before it (Unit 10).

## Word agreement

We normally use 'negative words' (Unit 5.4) with questions:

Have you got <b>any</b> money?	NOT <i>some</i>
Have you finished <b>yet</b> ?	NOT <i>already</i>

But if we think or hope that the answer to the question will be **yes**, we can use 'affirmative words':

Have you got <b>some</b> money?	You are my friend, and I want to borrow some from you.
Have you finished <b>already</b> ?	It seems to me that you are finished, but this surprises me.

It is better to ask **Would you like some** coffee? Because we hope the answer will be **yes**. It is friendly.