

36 Open questions

Open questions can't be answered with "yes" or "no." They are formed differently depending on the main verb of the question.

See also:
Present simple 1 Question words 35
Verbs 49

36.1 OPEN QUESTIONS WITH "BE"

If the main verb of the sentence is "be," the question word goes at the beginning of the question and the form of "be" goes straight after it.

My name is Sarah.
What is your name?

"Be" comes after the question word.

The question is "open" because it can't be answered "yes" or "no."



FURTHER EXAMPLES

What is Ruby's job?



How was the concert?



Where were you last night?



Why are we all here?



What is this thing?



Why aren't you at school?



HOW TO FORM



36.2 OPEN QUESTIONS WITH OTHER VERBS

For all questions except those formed with "be," the question word is followed by an auxiliary verb. If there is already an auxiliary verb in the sentence, it is also used in the question. If there is no auxiliary verb, a form of "do" is added.

Who should I call?

This auxiliary verb is already in the sentence, so it stays in the question.



When do you eat lunch?

Auxiliary "do" follows the question word.



The question word goes at the beginning.

The main verb changes to its base form.

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QUESTION WORD	AUXILIARY VERB	SUBJECT	MAIN VERB
When	do	you	eat lunch?
	did		
	should		

FURTHER EXAMPLES

Where **do** you go swimming?



Where **could** he have gone?



What **does** she do on the weekend?



How **did** this happen?



Which car **do** you drive to work?



Who **can** speak English here?



When **does** he finish work?



What **should** I do now?



Why **did** you stay up so late?



When **did** you get a cat?

