

03 Present simple questions

Questions in the present simple with “be” are formed by swapping the verb and subject. For other verbs, the auxiliary verb “do” or “does” must be added before the subject.

See also:

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3.1 QUESTIONS WITH “BE” IN THE PRESENT SIMPLE

To form questions in the present simple using “be,” reverse the order of the subject and the verb.

In a statement, the subject comes before the verb.
You are Canadian.

Are you Canadian?

In a question, the verb moves to the start of the sentence.

The subject comes after the verb.



HOW TO FORM

| “BE” | SUBJECT | REST OF SENTENCE |
|------|-----------------|------------------|
| Am | I | Canadian? |
| Is | he / she / it | |
| Are | you / we / they | |

FURTHER EXAMPLES

Am I on time? Two red silhouettes of people; one is holding a clock.

Is he your brother? Three red silhouettes of people representing a family.

Question words can be used before the verb to form open questions.
Where are we? Two red silhouettes of people, one holding a map.

Am I on the list? A red silhouette of a person holding a list.

Is it time to leave? A red silhouette of a person with a suitcase.

Are they friendly? A red silhouette of a person walking a dog.

3.2 QUESTIONS WITH "DO" AND "DOES"

For questions with verbs other than "be," start the question with "do" or "does." Don't swap the subject and the main verb.

You work in an office.

Do you work in an office?

↑ Add "do" to questions with "I," "you," "we," and "they."

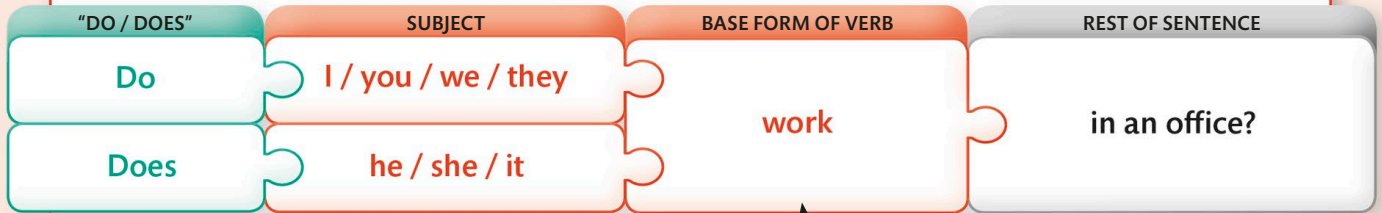
She works in a school.

Does she work in a school?

↑ Add "does" to questions with "he," "she," and "it."

↑ The main verb goes in its base form.

HOW TO FORM



↑ The verb never takes an "-s" or "-es" when you ask a question.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

Do they live in Paris?



Do you usually finish work at 4pm?



Does Tom get up at 6am?



When does the party start?



↑ Question words can be used before "do" or "does" to form open questions.

⚠ COMMON MISTAKES FORMING PRESENT SIMPLE QUESTIONS

Never add "-s" or "-es" to the base form of the verb when asking a question, even in the third person singular ("he," "she," or "it").

Does he finish work on time? ✓

↑ The main verb always goes in its base form in questions.

Does he finishes work on time? ✗

↑ Do not add "-s" or "-es" to the main verb when asking a question.