# 40 Short questions

Short questions are a way of showing interest during conversation. They're used to keep conversation going, rather than to ask for new information.

#### See also:

Present simple 1 Forming quetsions **34** Types of verbs **49** 

### **40.1** SHORT QUESTIONS

Short questions must be in the same tense as the statement they're responding to. If the statement is positive, the short question should be positive and vice versa. The subject from the statement is replaced with the relevant pronoun.

## It's Tom's birthday today.

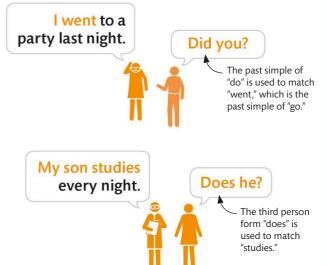


# I play golf every weekend.



#### **FURTHER EXAMPLES**





## **40.2** SHORT QUESTIONS WITH AUXILIARY VERBS

If a statement contains an auxiliary verb, including modal verbs, that auxiliary verb is repeated in the short question.

# I have just come back from Hawaii.



#### **FURTHER EXAMPLES**

I couldn't wait to come to work today.





Couldn't you?

The train should be here by now.

I've been working since 7am.



I can't find my

Can't you?

Have you?



## 40.3 SHORT QUESTIONS IN US ENGLISH

In US English, short questions are sometimes not inverted.





He is?

The subject and verb are not inverted, but this is said with a rising intonation. My team didn't win the game last night.

car keys.

They didn't?



