



**Tikrit University**

**College of Education for women**

**English Department**

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**((Questions))**

# Questions

## 1. 'Yes-no' questions

Yes-no questions are usually formed by placing the operator before the subject and giving the sentence a rising intonation:

The boat has LEFT - Has the boat LEFT?

If there is no item in the verb phrase that can function as operator, do is introduced as with negation:

He likes Mary ^ Does he like Mary?

## 2. Tag questions

The tag question consists of operator plus pronoun, with or without a negative particle; the choice and tense of the operator are determined by the verb phrase in the superordinate clause:

The boat hasn't left, has it?

Joan recognized you, didn't she?

As these examples illustrate, if the superordinate clause is positive, the tag is negative, and vice versa.

## 3. Declarative Questions

The declarative question is an exceptional type of yes-no question identical in form to a statement, except for the final rising question intonation:

You've got the EXPL6sive?

They've spoken to the AMBASSador?

You realize what the RiSKS are?

Boris will be THERE, I suppose?

He didn't finish the RACE?

Notice the occurrence of / suppose, impossible in normal questions. Declarative questions show their assertive character in the inadmissibility of non-assertive forms:

The guests have had < I [ somethmgj

\*The guests have had anything to eat?

They are similar in force to type [I] or type [II] tag questions, except for a rather casual tone, which suggests that the speaker takes the answer yes or no as a foregone conclusion.

#### **4. 'Wh'-questions**

Wh- questions are formed with the aid of one of the following interrogative words (or Q-words): **who, whom/who, what, which when, where, how, why**. As a rule

(1) The Q-element (ie clause element containing the Q-words) generally comes first in the sentence;

(2) The Q-word itself takes first position in the Q-element. The only exception to the second principle is when the Q-word occurs in a prepositional complement. Here English provides a choice between two constructions, one formal and the other less so. In formal style, the preposition precedes the complement, whereas in colloquial style, the complement comes first and the preposition retains the position it has in a declarative sentence:

- On what did you base your prediction? (formal)
- What did you base your prediction on!

The following are sentences in which the Q-element operates in various clause functions:

- Who opened my LÉTter? (Q-element: S)
- Which books have you LENT him? (Q-element: Oj)
- Whose beautiful anTIQUES are these? (Q-element: Cs) How wide did they make the BOOKcase? (Q-element: Q )
- When will you come BÁCK? (Q-element: Ati^e)
- Where shall I put the GLÁSSes? (Q-element: Apiece)
- Why are they always comPLÁINing? (Q-element: Areason)
- How did you M ÉND it? (Q-element: Aprocess)
- How much does he CÁRE? (Q-element: A;ntensify;ng)
- How long have you been W AlTing? (Q-element: Aduration)
- How often do you visit New YORK? (Q-element: Afrequency)

Subject-operator inversion is the same in its application to wh-questions as in its application to yes-no questions; if there is no auxiliary in the equivalent statement, do is introduced as operator in the question. Lexical be (and sometimes, in BrE, have) acts as an operator:

- How are you?
- Who have we here?

## 5. Alternative questions

There are two types of alternative question, the first resembling a yes-no question, and the second a wh-question:

- Would you like CHÓcolate, VANÍLla, or STRAWberry (icecream)? [1]
- Which ice-cream would you LIKE? CHÓcolate, VANÍLla, or STRÁWberry? [2]