

Yes/No Questions

1. Yes/No questions are questions that require a yes or no answer. They are formed by putting an auxiliary verb at the beginning of the sentence. If the affirmative sentence has an auxiliary, it is simply moved to the beginning of the sentence.

Examples:

Affirmative: The economy **will** improve next year.

Interrogative: **Will** the economy improve next year?

Affirmative: Leslie **was** sleeping when the phone rang.

Interrogative: **Was** Leslie sleeping when the phone rang?

Affirmative: Your brother **is** working as a lifeguard this summer.

Interrogative: **Is** your brother working as a lifeguard this summer?

Affirmative: Steve **has** been to New York.

Interrogative: **Has** Steve been to New York?

Affirmative: The police **had** already left by the time the reporter arrived.

Interrogative: **Had** the police already left by the time the reporter arrived?

Affirmative: Mike can play the guitar.

Interrogative: **Can** Mike play the guitar?

Affirmative: We **should** tell him the truth.

Interrogative: **Should** we tell him the truth?

2. If the affirmative sentence does not have an auxiliary verb, then we add **do, does, or did** at the beginning of the sentence. **The verb is used in the simple form with do, does, or did.**

Examples:

Affirmative: Maria **speaks** seven languages.

Interrogative: **Does** Maria **speak** seven languages?

Affirmative: Donna and Betty **teach** math.

Interrogative: **Do** Donna and Betty **teach** math?

Affirmative: The class **went** on a field trip last Friday.

Interrogative: **Did** the class **go** on a field trip last Friday?

3. Do not use **do**, **does**, or **did** with the verb **to be**. The verb **to be** follows the rules for an auxiliary verb, even when it is the only verb in the sentence.

Examples:

Is Laura a good student?

Are you satisfied?

Was John sick yesterday?

4. Do not use another auxiliary with a modal auxiliary.

Examples:

Will you be able to come tomorrow? (NOT ~~Will you can come tomorrow?~~)

Can she speak French? (NOT ~~Does she can speak French?~~)

5. Questions with there be (there is, there was, etc.) move the verb **be** (or the auxiliary used with **be**) to the beginning of the sentence.

Examples:

There **is** some milk in the fridge.

Is there any milk in the fridge?

There **was** a fire at the mall yesterday.

Was there a fire at the mall yesterday?

There **have** been a lot of fires this year.

Have there been a lot of fires this year?

There **will** be a meeting next Friday.

Will there be a meeting next Friday?