



# *Questions*

College of Agriculture  
Department of Agricultural Machines  
English\_4  
Lecture #6

## Question forms

Notice these question forms.

- Subject questions with no auxiliary verb

*Who broke the window?*

*What happens at the end of the book?*

- Questions with prepositions at the end

*Who is your letter from?*

*What are you talking about?*

- Question words + noun/adjective/adverb

*What sort of music do you like?*

*How big is their new house?*

*How fast does your car go?*

- Other ways of asking *Why?*

*What did you do that for?*

*How come you got here before us?*

*How come ...?* expresses surprise. Notice that there is no inversion in this question form.

## ***what and which***

- 1 *What* and *which* are used with nouns to make questions.

*What size shoes do you take?*

*Which of these curries is the hottest?*

- 2 Sometimes there is no difference between questions with *what* and *which*.

*What/which is the biggest city in your country?*

*What/which channel is the match on?*

- 3 We use *which* when the speaker has a limited number of choices in mind.

*There's a blue one and a red one. Which do you want?*

We use *what* when the speaker is not thinking of a limited number of choices.

*What car do you drive?*

## Asking for descriptions

- 1 *What is X like?* means Give me some information about X because I don't know anything about it.

*What's your capital city like?*

*What are your parents like?*

- 2 *How is X?* asks about a person's health and happiness.

*How's your mother these days?*

Sometimes both questions are possible. *What ... like?* asks for objective information. *How ... ?* asks for a more personal reaction.

*'What was the party like?'* 'Noisy. Lots of people. It went on till 3.'

*'How was the party?'* 'Brilliant. I danced all night. Met loads of great people.'

*How was your journey?*

*How's your new job going?*

*How's your meal?*

## Indirect questions

There is no inversion and no *do/does/did* in indirect questions.

*I wonder what she's doing.* \*I wonder ~~what is she doing.~~

*I don't know where he lives.* \*I don't know ~~where does he live.~~

*Tell me when the train leaves.*

*Do you remember how she made the salad?*

*I didn't understand what she was saying.*

*I've no idea why he went to India.*

*I'm not sure where they live.*

*He doesn't know whether he's coming or going.*

## Forming negatives

- 1 We make negatives by adding *not* after the auxiliary verb. If there is no auxiliary verb, we add *do/does/did*.

*I haven't seen her for ages.*

*It wasn't raining.*

*You shouldn't have gone to so much trouble.*

*We don't like big dogs.*

*They didn't want to go out.*

- 2 The verb *have* has two forms in the present.

*I don't have | any money.*

*I haven't got*

*But ... I didn't have any money.*

- 3 Infinitives and *-ing* forms can be negative.

*We decided not to do anything.*

*I like not working. It suits me.*

4 *Not* can go with other parts of a sentence.

*Ask him, not me.*

*Buy me anything, but not perfume.*

5 When we introduce negative ideas with verbs such as *think*, *believe*, *suppose*, and *imagine*, we make the first verb negative, not the second.

*I don't think you're right. \*I think you aren't ...*

*I don't suppose you want a game of tennis?*

6 In short answers, the following forms are possible.

<i>Are you coming?</i>	'I think so.'
	'I believe so.'
	'I hope so.'
	'I don't think so.'
	'I hope not.'

*I think not* is possible. *\*I don't hope so* is not possible.

## Negative questions

- 1 Negative questions can express various ideas.

*Haven't you finished school yet?* (surprise)

*Don't you think we should wait for them?* (suggestion)

*Wouldn't it be better to go tomorrow?* (persuasion)

*Can't you see I'm busy? Go away!* (criticism)

*Isn't it a lovely day!* (exclamation)

- 2 In the main use of negative questions, the speaker would normally expect a positive situation, but now expresses a negative situation. The speaker therefore is surprised.

*Don't you like ice-cream? Everyone likes ice-cream!*

*Haven't you done your homework yet? What have you been doing?*

- 3 Negative questions can also be used to mean *Confirm what I think is true*. In this use it refers to a positive situation.

*Haven't I met you somewhere before?* (I'm sure I have.)

*Didn't we speak about this yesterday?* (I'm sure we did.)

- 4 The difference between the two uses can be seen clearly if we change them into sentences with question tags.

*You haven't done your homework yet, have you?* (negative sentence, positive tag)

*We've met before, haven't we?* (positive sentence, negative tag)

*Thank you*

