

Grammar: QUESTIONS

Yes-No questions

In questions that can be answered with either *yes* or *no*, we put an auxiliary verb before the subject

<i>Are you coming?</i>	<i>Yes, I am / No, I'm not</i>
<i>Can you drive a truck?</i>	<i>Yes, I can / No, I can't</i>
<i>Do you know his name?</i>	<i>Yes, I do / No, I don't</i>
<i>Did you arrive on time?</i>	<i>Yes, I did / No, I didn't</i>
<i>Have you heard the news?</i>	<i>Yes, I have / No, I haven't</i>
<i>Will you have time?</i>	<i>Yes, I will / No, I won't</i>

Open questions

- We use question words such as *what*, *where*, *when*, *why* and *how* to ask for more information. The question word comes before the auxiliary verb

What is your name?
Who is the teacher?
Where do you come from?
Why are you studying English?
What time is it?
When were you born?
How long have you been studying English?
How are you?

- We use *what* if there are many possible answers and *which* if there are fewer possible answers

What is their policy?
Which of these cases is yours?

- If *who* or *what* is the subject of the sentence, the word order is the same as in a statement

What happens when things go wrong?

- The question word *how* can be followed by an adjective or adverb

How good is your English?

Question tags

Question tags are formed using the appropriate auxiliary verb + a pronoun which relates to the subject of the main sentence. They correspond to the Italian: *vero? O no? giusto?*

NB If the main clause is positive, the question tag is negative
If the main clause is negative, the question tag is positive

You're a film producer, aren't you?
Julia Roberts isn't in that film, is she?

You've got a lot of money, haven't you?
You haven't got a lot of sense, have you?

You are working in a bank, aren't you?
You aren't working today, are you?

We can come and see you, can't we?
He can't help you, can he?

The film made quite a lot of money, didn't it?
You didn't go to the cinema last night, did you?

You've seen that film, haven't you?
She hasn't bought the video yet, has she?

You had been there before, hadn't you?
They hadn't come to the house, had they?

Pay attention to falling and rising intonation in question tags:

Are you happy, aren't you ? ↗ Vera domanda (non so se lo sei)
↘ Domanda retorica (so che lo sei)