# Grammar: QUESTIONS

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

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

## 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)