

Q and A

GRAMMAR revision: question formation

Complete the following questions with one or two question words or an auxiliary verb.

- 1 How much do you earn?
- 2 Are you married?
- 3 _____ have you been learning English?
- 4 _____ do you prefer, small towns or big cities?
- 5 _____ do you go to the theatre a year?
- 6 _____ tall are you?
- 7 _____ religion are you?
- 8 _____ you want to have children?
- 9 _____ of music do you listen to?
- 10 _____ advice do you listen to most?
- 11 _____ you ever said 'I love you' and not meant it?
- 12 _____ did you vote for in the last election?

*) Cross (✗) the questions above which you wouldn't ask a person you don't know very well. Are there any questions which you would not even ask a good friend? Which questions might you expect to find in a magazine interview with a famous person?

*) Read the two interviews. Which question is...?
the most personal the most boring the most original.

*) Read the interviews again and write N (Norah) or L (Lionel).

- Who...?
- 1 never has enough time for what he / she wants to do _____
 - 2 has happy childhood memories _____
 - 3 avoids answering one of the questions _____
 - 4 feels guilty about something _____
 - 5 is probably a fan of the Rolling Stones _____
 - 6 is very proud about something _____
 - 7 says he / she is an insecure person _____
 - 8 needs help in his / her daily life _____

*) In pairs, look at questions 8–12 in the Lionel Richie interview. Find an example of...

- 1 a question where an auxiliary verb has been *added* to make the question.
- 2 a question where there is no auxiliary verb.
- 3 a question which ends with a preposition.
- 4 a negative question.
- 5 a question where the auxiliary verb and subject have been inverted to make the question.

*) **p.132 Grammar Bank 1A.** Read the rules and do the exercises.

Young star, old star

Every week the British newspaper, *The Guardian*, chooses people who have been in the news recently, and publishes a short interview with them called **Q&A**. The questionnaire often includes quite personal questions.

Q&A Norah Jones



Norah Jones was born in New York and is the daughter of the Indian sitar player and composer Ravi Shankar and the concert promoter Sue Jones; her half-sister is the musician Anoushka Shankar. A singer-songwriter, her debut album, *Come away with me*, sold more than 20 million copies worldwide and won her five Grammy Awards.

- 1 **Where would you like to live?**
Barcelona.
- 2 **What do you most dislike about your appearance?**
I am too short. I am 5ft 1in (155cm).
- 3 **Who would play you in the film of your life?**
Maybe Christina Ricci.
- 4 **What's your favourite smell?**
Onion, garlic, and butter cooking in a pan.
- 5 **What's your favourite word?**
'No'.
- 6 **Which living person do you most despise, and why?**
No comment!
- 7 **What single thing would improve the quality of your life?**
Probably a housekeeper.
- 8 **Who would you invite to your dream dinner party?**
All my friends and Keith Richards – I think he'd be great at a dinner party.
- 9 **What's the worst job you've done?**
A waitressing job where I had the breakfast shift. It wasn't the job that was so bad, just the hours. I had to go in at five in the morning.
- 10 **If you could go back in time, where would you go?**
Summer camp in Michigan, aged 14.
- 11 **How do you relax?**
A hot bath.
- 12 **What keeps you awake at night?**
Music. A song will keep going round in my brain and keep me awake.



Q&A Lionel Richie

Lionel Richie was born in Alabama, USA. He became famous in the 1970s as lead singer with The Commodores and again in the 1980s as a solo singer. He is best remembered for songs like *Three times a lady*, *All night long*, and *Say you (say me)*, for which he won an Oscar.

2 PRONUNCIATION intonation, stress, and rhythm in questions

Using the right **intonation** or tone helps you to sound friendly and interested when you speak English. **Stressing** the right words in a sentence helps you speak with a good rhythm. **Intonation + stress** = the music and **rhythm** of English.

- a **1.1** Listen to questions 1–8. In which one does the speaker sound more friendly and interested? Write a or b.
 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ 5 ___ 6 ___ 7 ___ 8 ___
- b **1.2** Listen and underline the stressed words in these questions.
- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 What's your <u>favourite kind of music</u> ? | 5 How long have you been living here? |
| 2 Have you ever been to a health club? | 6 What are you thinking about? |
| 3 How often do you go away at the weekend? | 7 Are you a vegetarian? |
| 4 Do you know what's on TV tonight? | 8 What do you do to relax? |
- c Listen again and repeat the questions in b. Try to sound as friendly as possible. Then ask each other the questions.

3 SPEAKING

- a Look at the answers other celebrities gave to some other questions in *The Guardian* interview series. In pairs, try to guess what the original questions were.

La Sagrada Familia basilica in Barcelona.



Natalie Imbruglia, singer and actress

When England went out of the World Cup.



Danny Jones, from the band McFly

For the Labour party.



Martin Freeman, actor

Paris in the first decade of the 20th century.



William Boyd, writer

Going from anywhere back to Copenhagen.



Helena Christensen, top model

Flying, especially since 9 / 11.



Shaznay Lewis, singer from All Saints

- b Now choose six questions from the interviews to ask a partner. Only ask questions which you would be comfortable to answer yourself.

- 1 **What's your idea of perfect happiness?**
Sunday by the pool, no phone calls.
- 2 **What's your earliest memory?**
My first day at pre-school. I was terrified. I'd never seen that many children in my whole life.
- 3 **What's your most treasured possession?**
My Oscar.
- 4 **If you could edit your past, what would you change?**
The Commodores never did a farewell tour. We just broke up and disappeared.
- 5 **What has been your most embarrassing moment?**
Forgetting the lyrics to my new single on a TV show.
- 6 **What words or phrases do you most overuse?**
'I'll call you back' or 'I'll see you soon'.
- 7 **What's the most important lesson life has taught you?**
Don't trust the smile, trust the actions.
- 8 **What don't you like about your personality?**
I'm an egotistical maniac with an inferiority complex.
- 9 **What makes you depressed?**
That there are 24 hours in a day and I need 36.
- 10 **When did you last cry and why?**
At the funeral of Milan Williams of The Commodores.
- 11 **Who would you most like to say sorry to?**
To my kids for not being there more.
- 12 **What song would you like to be played at your funeral?**
All night long and Stevie Wonder's *I just called to say I love you*.



WHEN I ARRIVED at the Hydro Bar, the women, who were wearing fashionable dresses and smart suits, were giggling nervously as they put on badges with a number on them. 'Maybe my jeans are a bad idea,' I thought. I chatted to other people while we waited. People I spoke to said they had doubled the number of dates they had in a year with just one night of speed dating. The men included a chef, a banker, a photographer, an engineer, a management consultant, and a novelist. They were just pleased they could stop having to try to chat up strangers in bars: 'It's so hard to meet girls in London. With speed dating you meet 20 or 30 single girls in one night,' said one man. 'You can't talk to girls at salsa classes,' said another. Matt, 28, said, 'After doing this once I got several dates. There's a good atmosphere; it's safe and it's really good. It's like being at a party with lots of single women.'

Then it started. I made eye contact with the girl next to me so we could compare our opinions of the men; we raised our eyebrows for a possibility, exchanged a smile if the man was good-looking, and made a grimace if he made three minutes feel like three hours.

I thought it was boring just to ask questions like 'What do you do?' or 'Where are you from?' so I tried to think of more interesting and imaginative questions to ask, like 'If you could be an animal, what animal would you be and why?'

In the end I ticked six boxes. A couple of days later, I was told that four of the men had ticked me too. Four new dates. Not bad in 66 minutes.

Glossary 2

- 1 _____ a small piece of metal, plastic, or cloth with words or a design on it
- 2 _____ an expression on your face that shows you are in pain
- 3 _____ laugh in a silly way because you are amused or nervous
- 4 _____ move the line of hair above your eye upwards
- 5 _____ **pv** talk (to sb) in a friendly way because you are attracted to them
- 6 _____ talk in a friendly, informal way

- f Complete Glossary 2 with the correct word or phrase.
- g Using your own words, answer questions 1–4 with a partner.
 - 1 Why did the journalist feel a bit uncomfortable at first?
 - 2 What kind of men went to this speed dating evening?
 - 3 What kind of signs did she make to the girl next to her? What for?
 - 4 What kind of questions did she think worked best?
- h Do you think speed dating is a good way of meeting people? If you were looking for a partner, would you try it? What questions would you ask?

5 LISTENING

- a **1.3** Listen to a radio programme about speed dating. A man and a woman who have both tried it talk about their experiences. How successful was it for them?
- b Listen again. Then answer the questions with E (Emily), A (Alex), or B (both).
Who...?
 - 1 preferred to ask normal questions
 - 2 was asked an unusual question
 - 3 was asked the same question again and again
 - 4 got the fewest matches
 - 5 had a disastrous date because he / she wasn't feeling well
 - 6 was invited on a date which never took place
 - 7 had a good date in spite of having had some bad news
 - 8 realized on a date that his / her first impression was wrong
 - 9 says he / she isn't planning to go speed dating again
- c Does hearing about Emily and Alex's experiences make you feel more or less positive about speed dating?

6 SPEAKING

GET IT RIGHT reacting and asking for more information

When you ask someone a question and they answer, it is normal to show interest, e.g. *Really?*, *Oh yes?*, *Yes, me too*, *Me neither*, *I know what you mean*, or by asking for more information, either with another question, e.g. *And what happened then?* or simply with a question word, e.g. *Why?* *When?*, etc.

- a You are going to do 'speed questioning' with other people in the class. Before you start, think of five questions to ask.
- b When your teacher says 'Start', you have three minutes to talk to the person next to you. Ask and answer each other's questions and ask for more information. When the teacher says 'Change', stop and go and talk to another student.
- c Which questions were the best for finding out about other students?

From The Observer

1A question formation

- 1 **Can you** drive? Why **are you** crying?
- 2 Where **do you** live? **Did you** go out last night?
- 3 Why **didn't you** like the film? **Isn't this** a beautiful place?
- 4 **What** are they talking about? **Where** is she from?
- 5 **Who** lives in this house? **How many people** came to the party?
- 6 Could you tell me **where this bus goes**?
Do you know **if he's coming**?

- 1 To make questions with modal verbs and with tenses where there is an auxiliary verb (*be, have, etc.*) invert the subject and the modal / auxiliary verb.
- 2 With the present and past simple, add *do / does* or *did* before the subject.
- 3 We often use negative questions to show surprise or when you expect somebody to agree with you.

- 4 If a verb is followed by a preposition, the preposition comes at the end of the question, e.g. *What are you talking about?* NOT *About what are you talking?*
 - We often just use the question word and the preposition, e.g. **A** *I'm thinking.* **B** *What about?*
- 5 When *who / what / which*, etc. is the **subject** of the question, don't use *do / did*, e.g. *Who wrote this?* NOT *Who did write this?*
- 6 Use indirect questions when you want to ask a question in a more polite way. *Where does she live?* (direct) *Could you tell me where she lives?* (indirect)
 - In indirect questions the order is subject + verb. *Can you tell me where **it is**?* NOT *Can you tell me where **is it**?*
 - Don't use *do / did* in the second part of the question.
 - You can use *if* or *whether* after *Can you tell me, Do you know, etc.*, e.g. *Can you tell me **if / whether** he's at home?*

1B auxiliary verbs

- 1 **A** Do you speak French? **B** Yes, I do. Quite well.
- 2 I like dogs, but my husband **doesn't**. Jim's coming, but Anna **isn't**.
- 3 **A** I loved the film. **B** So did I.
A I haven't finished yet. **B** Neither have I.
He's a doctor and **so is his wife**.
- 4 **A** I went to a psychic yesterday. **B** Did you?
A I'll make the dinner. **B** Will you? That's great!
- 5 **A** You didn't lock the door! **B** I did lock it, I promise.
A Silvia isn't coming. **B** She **is** coming. I've just spoken to her.
- 6 You won't forget, **will you?** Your wife can speak Italian, **can't she?**

Use auxiliary verbs (*do, have, etc.*) or modal verbs (*can, must, etc.*):

- 1 in short answers, instead of answering just *Yes / No*.
- 2 to avoid repeating the main verb / verb phrase, e.g. *I like dogs but my husband doesn't (like dogs)*.
- 3 with *so* and *neither* to say that something is the same. Use *so* + subject + auxiliary with a positive verb, and *neither* (or *nor*) + subject + auxiliary with a negative verb.

- 4 to make 'echo questions', to show interest.
- 5 to show emphasis in a positive sentence. With the present / past simple, add *do / does / did* before the main verb. With other auxiliaries stress the auxiliary verb.
- 6 to make question tags. Use a positive question tag with a negative verb and a negative question tag with a positive verb.
 - Question tags are often used simply to ask another person to agree with you, e.g. *It's a nice day, isn't it?* In this case the question tag is said with falling intonation, i.e. the voice goes down.
 - Question tags can also be used to check something you think is true, e.g. *She's a painter, isn't she?* In this case the question tag is said with rising intonation, as in a normal yes / no question.

1C present perfect (simple and continuous)

present perfect simple: *have / has* + past participle

- 1 **I've been** to Australia. **Have you ever broken** your leg?
- 2 **We've just phoned** the doctor.
I've already finished my lunch.
- 3 It's the best book **I've ever read**.
It's the first time **we've done** this.
- 4 My sister's **had** a baby! Look, **I've cut** my finger.
- 5 **I've known** her **since** I was a child.
She's had the job **for** six months.
- 6 **How many** of his books **have you read**?
She's been out twice this week.

Use the present perfect simple:

- 1 to talk about past experiences when you don't say when something happened.
- 2 with *already, just, and yet*.
- 3 with superlatives and *the first, second, last time, etc.*
- 4 for finished actions (no time is specified) which are connected in some way with the present.
- 5 with *How long?* and *for / since* with **non-action** verbs (= verbs not usually used in the continuous form, e.g. *be, have, know, like, etc.*) to say that something started in the past and is still true now.
- 6 when we say / ask *how much / many* we have done or *how often* we have done something up to now.

present perfect continuous: *have / has + been* + verb + *-ing*

- 1 **How long have you been feeling** like this? **I've been working** here for two months.
- 2 **I haven't been sleeping** well recently. **It's been raining** on and off all day.
- 3 **I've been shopping** all morning. I'm exhausted.
A Take your shoes off. They're filthy.
B Yes, I know. **I've been working** in the garden.

Use the present perfect continuous:

- 1 with *How long?* and *for / since* with **action** verbs to say that an action started in the past and is still happening now.
- 2 for repeated actions, especially with a time expression, e.g. *all day, recently*.
- 3 for continuous actions which have just finished (but which have present results).

present perfect simple or continuous?

- 1 **We've lived / We've been living** in this town since 1980.
We've been living in a rented flat for the last two months.
- 2 **We've painted** the kitchen. **We've been painting** the kitchen.

- 1 With *How long...?* and *for / since* you can often use the present perfect simple or continuous. However, we often prefer the present perfect continuous for shorter, more temporary actions.
- 2 The present perfect simple emphasizes the completion of an action (= the painting is finished). The present perfect continuous emphasizes the continuation of an action (= the painting is probably not finished).

1A

- a Order the words to make questions.
- friend known long best have How you your
How long have you known your best friend?
- 1 you messages send ever text Do
 - 2 party was a time you to the When last went
 - 3 if Could bank here a you me near tell is there
 - 4 dinner usually Who the cooks
 - 5 shopping do going Who like you with
 - 6 at don't weekend you What doing the like
 - 7 car to would What you kind like buy of
 - 8 you time concert know finishes Do what the

- b Complete the questions.
- Where did you go on holiday last year? (you / go)
- 1 How often _____ exercise? (you / do)
 - 2 Who _____ *Crime and Punishment*? (write)
 - 3 Could you tell me how much _____? (this book / cost)
 - 4 What _____ at the end of the film? (happen)
 - 5 _____ your trip to Paris last weekend? (you / enjoy)
 - 6 What kind of music _____? (Tim / usually listen to)
 - 7 Who _____ Mia's handbag? (steal)
 - 8 Do you know when _____? (the swimming pool / open)
 - 9 Where _____ your boyfriend tonight? (you / meet)
 - 10 Can you remember where _____? (she / live)

1B

- a Complete the mini-dialogues with an auxiliary.
- 1 A You didn't remember to buy coffee. B I did. It's in the cupboard.
 - 1 A It's cold today, _____ it? B Yes, it's freezing.
 - 2 A So you didn't go to the meeting?
B I _____ go to the meeting, but I left early.
 - 3 A What did you think of the film?
B Tom liked, it but I _____. I thought it was awful.
 - 4 A I wouldn't like to be famous. B Neither _____ I.
 - 5 A Emma doesn't like me.
B She _____ like you. She thinks you're very nice.
 - 6 A Sarah's had a baby.
B _____ she? I didn't know she was pregnant!
 - 7 A Will your boyfriend be at the party?
B No, he _____. He's away this week.
 - 8 A I can't come tonight.
B _____ you? Why not?
- b Complete the conversation with auxiliary verbs.
- A You're Tom's sister, aren't you?
 B Yes, I ¹ _____.
 A It's a great club, ² _____ it?
 B Yes, it ³ _____. But I don't like the music much.
 A ⁴ _____ you? I love it!
 B Really? ⁵ _____ you been here before?
 A No, I ⁶ _____.
 B Neither ⁷ _____ I.
 A So you ⁸ _____ go out much, then?
 B Well, I ⁹ _____ go out, but I ¹⁰ _____ go to clubs very often.
 A Oh, I ¹¹ _____. I love clubbing.
 B I'd love a drink.
 A So ¹² _____ I. Let's go to the bar.

1C

- a Circle the correct form of the verb. Tick (✓) if both are correct.
- Have you ever (tried) / *been trying* caviar?
- 1 *She's lived* / *She's been living* here for years.
 - 2 Your boss *has phoned* / *has been phoning* three times this morning!
 - 3 The kids are exhausted because *they've played* / *they've been playing* outside all day.
 - 4 *He hasn't seen* / *He hasn't been seeing* the new James Bond film yet.
 - 5 *I've never met* / *I've never been meeting* his wife. Have you?
 - 6 *We've studied* / *We've been studying* English all our lives.
 - 7 *I've tidied* / *I've been tidying* the garage all afternoon. I've nearly finished.
 - 8 He'll be here soon. *He's just left* / *He's just been leaving* work.
 - 9 How long *have you had* / *have you been having* your car?
 - 10 Oh no! Someone *has broken* / *has been breaking* the window.
- b Complete the sentences with the present perfect simple or continuous.
- I've bought* _____ a new car. Do you like it? (buy)
- 1 We _____ Jack and Ann for years. (know)
 - 2 You look hot. _____? (you / run)
 - 3 Rose _____ her homework so she can't go out. (not do)
 - 4 Did you know _____? They live in Torquay now. (they / move)
 - 5 How long _____ together? Five months? (Daisy and Adam / go out)
 - 6 I _____ time to cook dinner. Shall we get a pizza? (not have)
 - 7 We _____ for hours. I think we're lost. (walk)
 - 8 _____ my chocolates? There are only a few left! (you / eat)