

QUESTION FORMATION: QUICK REFERENCE

B1 | Subject questions and polite indirect questions

Question type	Structure	Example	Remember
Subject question: present	Who / What + verb + ...?	Who works here?	Who is the subject: the person doing the action.
Subject question: past	Who / What + past verb + ...?	Who called you?	No did in this ordinary positive subject question.
Object question	Who / What + do / does / did + subject + base verb + ...?	Who did you call?	You is the subject; who asks about the other person.
Indirect: question word	Could you tell me + question word + subject + verb + ...?	Could you tell me where the station is?	Use the station is , not is the station .
Indirect: present simple	Do you know + question word + subject + verb + ...?	Do you know when the shop opens?	Use opens , not does the shop open .
Indirect: yes/no	Do you know + if / whether + subject + verb + ...?	Do you know if the shop is open?	Use if or whether when there is no question word.
Question + preposition	Question word + auxiliary + subject + verb + preposition?	Who are you waiting for? What did you talk about?	The preposition often goes at the end in everyday English.

Compare the meaning

Who called Sam? asks who made the call. **Who did Sam call?** asks who received Sam's call.

Keep the word order clear

In indirect questions, the embedded part uses **subject + verb**: **Do you know where she lives?**

An **auxiliary** is a helping verb, such as do, did, are or have. The question mark goes at the end of the whole question.