

REPORTED QUESTIONS

B1 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Report questions with statement word order.

1. READ: After viewing a flat

Read the conversation. Notice the bold grammar and how the speakers use it.

Alex: How did the flat viewing go?

Beth: Well. The landlord **asked where I worked**.

Alex: Did he ask about references?

Beth: Yes, he **asked if I had** any. I gave him my manager's details.

Alex: Was there anything you wanted to know?

Beth: I **asked whether the rent included** heating. It doesn't, so I need to check the costs.

2. GRAMMAR: Wh-questions and yes/no questions

Use asked + question word or if/whether + statement word order. Remove do/does/did.

Use / form	Pattern	Example
Wh-question	asked + where/what/etc.	He asked where I worked.
Yes/no question	asked + if / whether	He asked if I had references.
Word order	subject + verb	She asked where he lived.

Direct: 'Where do you live?' **Reported:** He asked where I lived.

Use if or whether for yes/no questions. Backshift is common after a past reporting verb.

A reported question is normally a statement, so it does not end with a question mark.

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct option. Use the usual backshift for past reports.

1. He asked where I lived / did I live.
2. She asked if / that I was free.
3. Jo asked what did I want / I wanted.
4. He asked whether / where I had a car.
5. She asked when I would / will arrive.
6. He asked why I was / was I late.
7. Jo asked if I could / can help.
8. He asked where I worked / did I work.

Read each answer aloud. Explain which meaning or time clue helped you.

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Use it | Complete a context, write sentences and speak with a partner.

B. COMPLETE: Questions about a flat

Complete the reported questions with the usual backshifted forms.

1. The landlord asked where I _____ (work).
2. He asked whether I _____ (have) any references.
3. I asked if the rent _____ (include) heating.
4. He asked when I _____ (will / move) in.
5. I asked where I _____ (can / park).
6. He asked why I _____ (look) for a flat at that time.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Report with He asked me and backshift.

Example: "Where do you live?" **He asked me where I lived.**

1. "What do you need?"
2. "When will you arrive?"

3-4: Report with She asked me and if. Example: "Are you free?" **She asked me if I was free.**

3. "Do you have a car?"
4. "Can you help?"

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Report three questions someone has asked you. Include a wh-question and a yes/no question.

Example: **My teacher asked where I lived. She asked if I enjoyed the class.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

Ask your partner three questions about work, study or travel.

Your partner reports your questions with **You asked me...** Then swap.

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: After viewing a flat

Sample target language from the conversation:

Beth: Well. The landlord **asked where I worked**.

Beth: Yes, he **asked if I had** any. I gave him my manager's details.

Beth: I **asked whether the rent included** heating. It doesn't, so I need to check the costs.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. I lived | 2. if |
| 3. I wanted | 4. whether |
| 5. would | 6. I was |
| 7. could | 8. I worked |

B. COMPLETE: Questions about a flat

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. worked | 2. had |
| 3. included | 4. would move |
| 5. could park | 6. was looking |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. He asked me what I needed.
2. He asked me when I would arrive.
3. She asked me if I had a car.
4. She asked me if I could help.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: Jo asked me where I worked. She asked if I liked my job. She asked when I would take a holiday.

Teacher note: Accept whether instead of if in yes/no reports. The tasks request common backshift; unchanged forms can be natural when the information remains current.