

Objectives

- Language focus: Questions and negatives
- Vocabulary: Saying the opposite
- Everyday English: Being polite
- Reading: The post-truth age
- Listening: Guilty secrets
- Writing: Linking ideas





1. Who was the horse in the picture a gift from? Who to? Why was the giving of this gift 'a tissue of lies'?

2. Read the quote. Do you sometimes prefer people not to tell you the 'pure truth'? When, and why?

'For people who say they hate being lied to, just start telling them nothing but the pure truth, about everything. That will teach them.'

Seth Adam Brown

Test your grammar!

1. What is the missing word in each question?

1. 'Do you know what the time?' 'Just after three.'
2. 'How do you wash your hair?' 'Every day.'
3. What of music do you like?'
4. 'What were you talking to Carol?' 'Oh, this and that.'
5. 'Who do you look?' 'My mother.'

2. Make the sentences negative. Sometimes there is more than one possible way.

1. I agree with my mother.
2. I think you're wrong.
3. I told her to go now.
4. I knew everyone at the party.
5. I've already done my homework.
6. My sister likes tennis, too.

Language focus | Questions and negatives

White Lies

1. What are *white lies*? Why do people tell them? Can you think of examples?
2. All the people in photos (A-F) are not telling the truth. Who to? Why? Do you think they are all 'white lies'? Would you ever tell any of them?
3. Listen to what the people are thinking. What is the truth? Why did they lie?
4. Which question was each person asked before they lied?
 1. What's wrong? Don't you like it? (I hope she isn't going to complain.)
 2. Why haven't I received the report? Who *have* you sent it to?
 3. Have you heard who Suzi is going out with? I don't think you'll like it.
 4. How come you're not at work today? You were fine yesterday.
 5. Who gave you those? Why won't you tell me?
 6. Why didn't you call or text? I had no idea where you were.



Audio 4.1

LANGUAGE FOCUS

1. Find examples of these questions in 4.

- questions with auxiliary verbs
- a subject question (with no auxiliary)
- another way of asking 'Why?'
- negative questions
- a question with a preposition at the end
- indirect questions

2. Make these direct questions indirect.

- What's the answer?
- I've no idea what ...
- Where does he work?
- Do you know where ... ?

3. Find examples of these negatives in 4.

... negative questions. ... a future negative.
... negatives with think and hope.

Go to pages 22-24 for grammar reference.

A

I'm sorry I'm late. The traffic was awful, and my phone died.

B

I'm really not well. I think I'm coming down with flu.

C

The flowers? Oh, they're just from my boss, to thank me for working late.

D

Oh, I love it. Honestly, I think it looks great!

E

Oh! That's weird! I definitely emailed it to you yesterday. I'll send it again now.

F

Look Emily, I don't care who Suzi's seeing. I'm totally over her.

Questions

1. Put the words in order to make **A**'s questions.

1. **A:** light / this / on / all / who / night / left / has / ?
_____ ?
B: Oh, sorry, it was me. I thought I'd switched it off.
2. **A:** often / battery / need / to / will / how / change / the / we / ?
_____ ?
B: About every six months.
3. **A:** you / who / from / this / have / text / is / idea / any / ?
_____ ?
B: It says 'D x'. It must be Deirdra. Or it could be Diana.
4. **A:** what / do / the / know / is / time / you / match / on / ?
_____ ?
B: I think it starts at 7.30.
5. **A:** before / film / seen / haven't / we / this / ?
_____ ?
B: I think you may be right. I remember how it ends.
6. **A:** has / you / hair / Keri / with / have / done / what / her / seen / ?
_____ ?
B: Yes! I think it looks quite nice!

Listen and check. 
Audio 4.2

Negative questions

2. Read and listen to two conversations. Which expresses surprise?
Which is checking information?


Audio 4.3

1. **A:** Don't you like pizza?
B: No. Not everybody likes it, you know!
2. **A:** Don't you live near the park?
B: Yes, I do. I go running there most days.

Listen again and repeat. Notice the stress and intonation. 
Audio 4.3

3. Use negative questions to ask and answer about these things.

Surprised!	like / ice-cream	have got / smartphone
	can / swim	watch / match last night
Just checking	is / birthday next week	work / Berlin once
	play / piano	have got / twins

Listen and compare. What are the answers? 
Audio 4.4

4. Write two sentences about yourself using negative forms. One is true, the other is false! Read them to your teacher. Can they guess which is which?

I can't read from far away.

I never go to the gym
- I do yoga.



1. Make a *negative* sentence about these people.

- | | | | |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------|
| anti-royalist | insomniac | atheist | pacifist |
| vegan | environmentalist | technophobe | vegetarian |
| xenophobe | hypocrite | teetotaler | |

A vegetarian doesn't eat meat. A vegan won't ...

2. Listen to a man called Hugo. Which of the words in 1 does he say define him? What impression do you get of him?



3. Look at the picture of **Hugo**. Why do the things a-i in the picture show what a hypocrite he is?



SPOKEN ENGLISH – How come?

How come? can be used in informal English instead of *Why?*

Listen to the questions. Which ones express surprise and puzzlement?



Audio 4.6

- Why is he eating bacon if he's a vegan?
- How come** he's eating bacon? He's a vegan!
- Why has he got a Royal Wedding mug if he's an anti-royalist?
- How come** he's got a Royal Wedding mug? He's an anti-royalist!

4. Make questions about Hugo, *using How come ... ?*

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. He's a vegetarian. | 5. He's a technophobe. | 9. He's a pacifist. |
| 2. He's a vegan. | 6. He never watches TV. | 10. He's an anti-royalist. |
| 3. He's a teetotaler. | 7. He hates social media. | |
| 4. He doesn't own a car. | 8. He's an atheist. | |

Listen and compare.



Audio 4.7

5. **Role Play.** One of you is **Hugo**. Confront him with the questions from 4. Hugo has to justify.

Hey, if you're a vegetarian, how come are you having a bacon sandwich?

Oh, um, my brother left it behind when he visited, and it didn't feel right to throw it away.

6. We can respond to a statement with a short question, using *Wh ... ?* + preposition.

Hugo's gone out for a meal.

Who with?

I had a nice chat with
Beth today.

What about?

7. Write short questions with a preposition in reply to these statements.

1. Can I have a word with you, please?
2. Could you give me a lift?
3. I got a lovely email today.
4. I bought a brilliant birthday card yesterday.
5. I need £5,000 urgently.
6. I'm really worried.
7. We're going on holiday next week.
8. I spoke a lot of English yesterday.

Listen and check. Repeat them.



Audio 4.8

1. Look at the pictures below. Each one shows someone's guilty secret. What do you think happened?



2. Listen to the three people talking on a radio show called *Confessions*. Why are these statements wrong?

- **Jane** was given the restaurant's speciality to eat on two occasions.
- **Kevin's** daughter has always been keen on football.
- **Maggie** spent the whole coach journey sitting next to a man.



Audio 4.9

3. Listen again and answer the questions. Why does each person feel guilty?



Audio 4.9

1. **Jane** says:

They had a famous speciality there, ... Where was there? I was starving ... Why was this?

... which wasn't visible from the kitchen or the dining area ...

What wasn't visible?

... I did the only thing I could ... What did she do?

2. **Kevin** says:

... it shows just how much I love my wife. What shows this?

... her next words made my blood run cold. What were they?

... these things can get fixed very early ... What can get fixed?

... it just came out ... What came out?

3. **Maggie** says:

... I used to travel there by coach and ferry. Where is there?

... he went on and on about it. What was it?

... he asked if everyone was back on board. Who was he?

... it was a desperate attempt to feel less guilty ... What was it?

4. Which phrases go with which story? Who or what do they refer to?

my worst nightmare waving frantically get some shut-eye
the temptation was too great scalding hot stretch their legs
diehard Arsenal supporters my mouth was watering colouring-in book

What do you think?

- Whose story did you find the most shocking? Who would you forgive? Why?
- Do you have a guilty secret you'd like to share?
- Are you good at keeping other people's secrets? Why is it sometimes difficult?

1. Look at facts 1–8. Three of them are not true. Which are they?

1. Saudi Arabia doesn't have enough camels – it imports them from Australia.
2. The Aztec Empire is older than Oxford University.
3. North Korea and Finland are separated by only one country.
4. Rome is further south than New York.
5. If a piece of paper were folded 42 times, it would reach to the moon.
6. An octopus has three hearts and nine brains.
7. Peanuts are not nuts.
8. Mammoths went extinct a thousand years before the Egyptians finished building the Great Pyramid.

Check your answers on the following page.



1. Saudi Arabia doesn't have enough camels – it imports them from Australia.

True. Australia has the largest herd of wild camels in the world. Camels were imported into Australia in the 19th century, and their numbers have grown to become a problem – there are around 750,000 in the outback. Saudi Arabians import Australian camels for their meat, which is popular there, and their own camels cannot meet the demand for it.

2. The Aztec Empire is older than Oxford University.

Not true. Oxford University is older than the Aztec Empire. Teaching began in Oxford at the end of the 11th century, and the University of Oxford already had three colleges by 1249. The Aztec civilisation began with the founding of the city of Tenochtitlán, which was in 1325.

3. North Korea and Finland are separated by only one country.

True. North Korea has a very short land border with Russia, only 17 km long, but if you entered Russia through this border, that's the only country you would need to travel through to reach the Russian border with Finland, around 7,000 km away.

4. Rome is further south than New York.

Not true. New York is actually further south than Rome. New York's latitude is 40.7° North, while Rome is 41.9° North. New York is actually the same latitude as Naples, about 100 km to the south of Rome. It's the prevailing winds and ocean currents that give New York a much colder climate than Rome, not its latitude.

1. Answer the questions below.

- 1. How do you get your news stories? How do you know they are accurate and reliable?
- 2. What is fake news? Can you think of any recent examples?
- 3. What do people mean when they say that we’re living in a post-truth age?

2. Check the words and sort them under Truth or Untruth.

- bias (n)

exaggeration (n)

doubtful (adj)

prejudice (n)

evidence (n)

fiction (n)
- bogus (adj)

conspiracy theory (n)

real (adj)

accurate (adj)

reliable (adj)
- fabrication (n)

fantasist (n)

fact (n)

fake (adj)

credible (adj)

Truth	Untruth
evidence	fiction

Reading and Speaking

3. Read the introduction and the first paragraph of the text. Who is Jeff Broadbent? What keeps him awake at night?

4. Read the full text and answer the questions.

1. What's the problem with amateur journalism on the Internet?
2. Why weren't old-fashioned conspiracy theories as big a problem as modern fake news?
3. Why do we know that we can't completely trust mainstream news outlets?
4. Why was fake news such a problem during the 2016 US election campaign?
5. How can political leaders take advantage of fake news?
6. Why are some people happy to believe that the facts they hear are unreliable?
7. How can people make money from writing fake news stories?
8. Why is the increase in fake news a danger to democracy?

FAKE NEWS



In 2017, 'fake news' was Collins Dictionary's Word of the Year. The previous year Oxford Dictionaries' chose 'post-truth' as theirs. Jeff Broadbent gives us the facts on the increasing unreliability of our news media (or at least we think he does).



As an investigative journalist, I spend my days checking facts and making sure I have evidence for the stories I'm writing. So it's not surprising that the idea of being in a post-truth age keeps me awake at night. It's a terrifying thought, that many people no longer care whether a news story is actually true, and are simply content to read something that feels true.



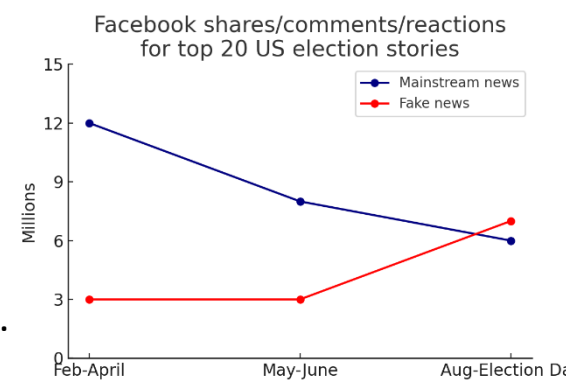
The good old days?

Now, I'm not pretending that everything in the media was 100% reliable in the past. We sometimes got things very wrong, and separating fact from fiction became more challenging as soon as the Internet provided every amateur journalist with an audience. So what's different now?

Well, in the past, we usually knew which articles had left reality behind – conspiracy theories telling us that men didn't really land on the moon, or that the British Royal Family ordered the murder of Princess Diana. This stuff was on fringe websites that looked like they were written by fantasists, and was read by a small minority. Most of us went to mainstream news outlets to find out what was really happening in the world, and although we knew that newspapers and news stations have their own political bias, we felt safe in assuming that the basic facts were accurate.

Spreading lies

The big difference nowadays is that most people don't go to news outlets for their news stories – the stories come to them, via social media sites such as Facebook. Articles appear in people's newsfeed, or are shared and forwarded by friends. And this is why millions now read stories that may appear to be from credible news sources, but are in fact not merely biased, but total fabrication. And it matters. One of the first instances where fake news may have influenced an election was in the US in 2016. There have always been exaggerations and untruths during election campaigns, but in this one there was an organized strategy of targeting key voters with fake news stories via social media. An analysis of how millions of Facebook users engaged with these fake stories showed that in the last three months of the campaign, they got more shares, likes, and comments than all the real stories from traditional news outlets. And is it just coincidence that most of the fake stories were in favour of the eventual winner, Donald Trump?



Choosing what to believe

President Trump was also one of the first politicians to take advantage of the fake news phenomenon. When reporters confronted him with negative news stories, his answer was simple: 'Fake news ... next question'. Other world leaders have done the same, and their supporters are quick to believe them. Many people are happy to view all facts as doubtful – it

makes it easy for them to choose what to believe and stick to their prejudices.

Bogus is business

Now there are whole fake news sites out there, producing bogus stories that people share unthinkingly. It's big business, because the most sensational stories get thousands of clicks, and advertisers will pay huge sums to make use of this traffic. And so we end up with a very worrying question in a democracy – how do we know who and what to vote for if we can't be sure what's true? But then I'll leave you with an even bigger question: how many of us really want to know the truth, if it challenges our deeply-held beliefs and lifestyles?



5. Answer the questions below.

- People write fake news stories for different reasons. What are they?
- Do you agree that fake news is a serious problem? Why/Why not?
- Do you ever send your friends links to news articles? Why/Why not?
- What can be done to stop fake news being a problem?



4. Optional. Read just the headlines of some stories that were widely circulated on social media. Which ones you think are true. Then, discuss again whether you think each story is real or fake.



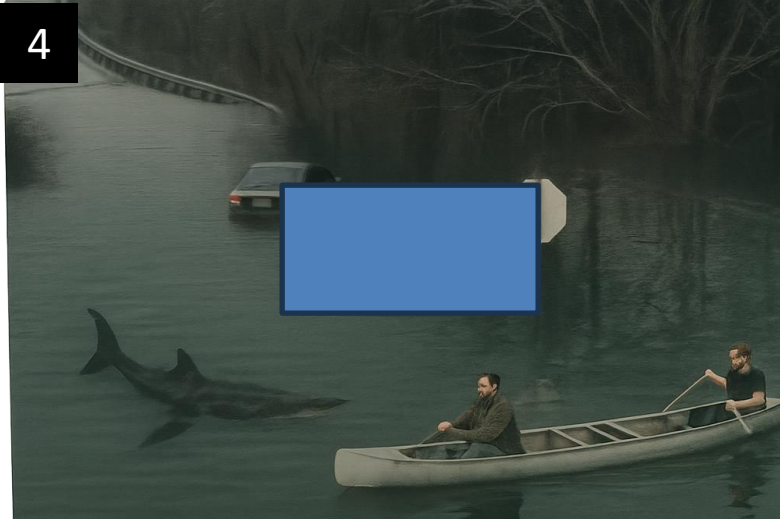
1
Man with piercings dies going through airport metal detectors
Gerard M. Rogers, who was the Guinness Book of Records' 'most pierced person', was killed as he attempted to go through a new high-strength metal detector in Los Angeles' LAX airport. LAX spokesman Joey Goldsmith said 'We'd warned him not to go through, but he said he'd been through one of these before with no problem. Maybe he was lying'. When Mr Rogers walked through the detector, he suffered multiple fatal wounds as it ripped out his piercings. Airports will now be screening which people can use the new machines.



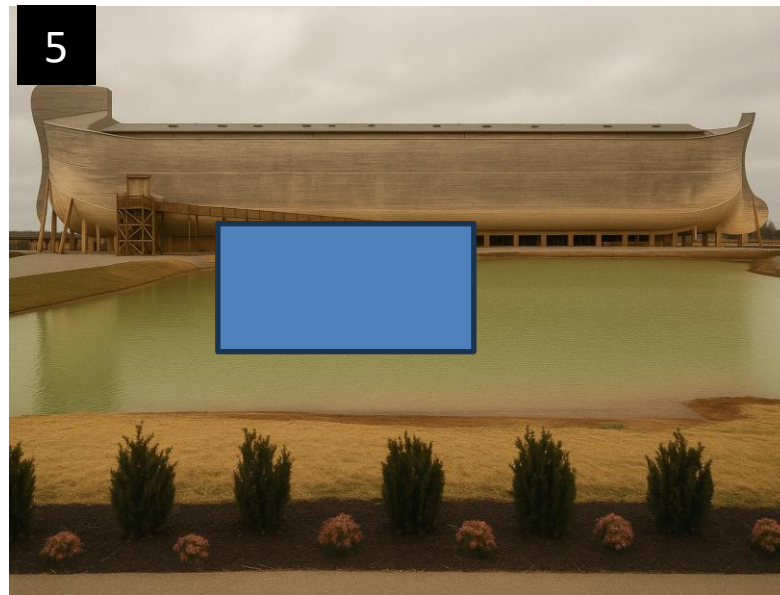
2
Passenger's peacock not allowed on flight
A passenger on a United Airlines flight from Newark Airport in New Jersey was told she wouldn't be allowed on the plane with her peacock. The woman had tried several times to get the bird on board, and even offered to buy a separate ticket for it – she claimed it was her 'emotional support peacock', and wouldn't be able to fly without it. A United spokesman said passengers needed to provide a doctor's letter before bringing an emotional support animal onto a flight.



3
Man fined after implanting travel card chip under skin
An Australian man says the law needs to catch up with technology, after being fined A\$220 for failing to produce his travel card on a train in Sydney. 34-year-old Mr Meow-Meow (full name Meow-Ludo Disco Gamma Meow-Meow), had had the chip from his travel card inserted into his hand by a piercing expert, so he could pass his hand over the card scanner. He had done this before boarding the train, but was convicted of travelling without a valid ticket.



4
Irma – first Category 6 Hurricane on record!
A Facebook live video of passengers trapped in an overturned bus on Saint Martin has shown the havoc Hurricane Irma is causing in the Caribbean. Many news reports predicted Irma could become the first Category 6 storm on record, and a Tweet from website journalist Alex Jones has confirmed this. Another Tweet included a photo of the flooding in Texas, showing a shark swimming along a flooded highway!



5
Flash flood destroys Kentucky Noah's Ark Exhibit
A new Noah's Ark Christian theme park set to open in Kentucky has been destroyed by a flash flood. 1½ inches (40 mm) of rain fell on the area in just one hour yesterday. The founder of the recently built visitor attraction, Ken Ham, is set to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars. Although the park is insured, insurance companies are not obliged to pay out for flash floods because they are something for which no person can be held responsible, and are therefore legally known as an 'Act of God'.



6
Winner of French Scrabble Championship speaks no French
Nigel Richards from New Zealand has won the French-language Scrabble tournament in Belgium, despite not speaking any French. In the nine weeks before the championship, Mr Richards memorized the French Scrabble Dictionary. He has no idea what the words mean, but this didn't stop him winning the final match easily, against a French speaker from Gabon. The mainly French-speaking audience stood and applauded his victory.

Answer keys.

1. **Fake.** A classic gruesome fabricated news piece, the sort that quickly goes viral. It appeared on the spoof site Empire News back in 2017. Virtually every element of the article is made-up, and naturally, airport metal detectors do not attract metallic items—they merely sense them. Only MRI machines can exert magnetic pull, but not strong enough to rip a piercing from the body. Patients are usually told to remove piercings before undergoing an MRI scan, as they may shift or heat up.
2. **True.** The passenger attempted on multiple occasions to bring her peacock onto a United Airlines flight from New Jersey, insisting it was essential for her emotional wellbeing. She even volunteered to buy a separate seat for the bird, but the airline denied boarding due to the animal's bulk and size. A spokesperson for United later clarified that travelers planning to bring emotional support animals must submit a medical certificate at least 48 hours prior to departure to validate the need.
3. **True.** Even the man's unusual legal name—Meow-Ludo Disco Gamma Meow-Meow—is correct, having been officially changed and registered. Mr. Meow-Meow had the travel card chip encased in body-safe plastic and surgically implanted into his hand. He expressed frustration at being fined, claiming it showed that “the law has not caught up” with innovation. He argued that society lags behind in embracing the potential of emerging technologies, and he even campaigned for office with Australia's Science Party in 2017.
4. **Fake.** You're a dreamer. Did you actually get to the end of this quiz? You tend to have little control over your circumstances. Disorder tends to follow you. Maybe you tell yourself it's part of being imaginative, but in reality, fear of failure holds you back from trying. Your skills remain unproven and your aspirations unrealized.
5. **Fake.** There is indeed a religious theme attraction, the Ark Encounter, modeled on Noah's Ark in Kentucky, which opened in 2016. However, the tale about it being ruined by floods prior to opening was a satirical hoax. It's also true that insurance providers frequently avoid paying for damage caused by severe weather events, which, oddly enough, are still legally termed “Acts of God” in today's largely secular legal systems.
6. **True.** As for speaking French, Nigel Richards knows little more than greetings like “Bonjour!” and counting numbers. He triumphed in French Scrabble by mentally analyzing all possible letter combinations that matched valid words from the French Scrabble dictionary, despite not understanding their definitions. He began playing Scrabble at age 28 and has since earned recognition as the greatest Scrabble competitor of all time.

Vocabulary | Saying the opposite

Antonyms

Read these sentences. Which **antonyms** are used?
Which uses a **prefix**?

- 1. Some news stories are accurate, but others are totally inaccurate.
- 2. Some news stories are accurate, but others are totally false.

1. Which negative prefix goes with these words to form antonyms?

credible	honest	legal
probable	reliable	responsible

2. Match the different words and their meanings.

A	B
1. abused	used too much
2. disused	not ever used
3. misused	used in the wrong way
4. overused	used cruelly or badly
5. underused	not used any more
6. unused	not used enough

3. What parts of speech are these words? Write antonyms for them, using prefixes where possible.

Word	Antonym
fake adj	genuine, real, authentic
like vb	dislike, hate, loathe, can't stand
allow	
generous	
appear	
sincere	
improve	
mature	
safe	
success	
tiny	
encourage	
guilty	
happiness	



4. Complete the gaps using words from 1, 2, and 3.

- 1. **A:** Barry's a very _____ businessman, isn't he?
B: Yeah, but he's a complete _____ as a father. He never sees his kids.
- 2. **A:** My granddad's so _____. He gives me a £20 note every time I see him.
B: Lucky you! My grandad's famous for his _____. A fiver every birthday, if he remembers.
- 3. **A:** Well, Henry, I'm pleased there's been some _____ in your behaviour this term, but unfortunately your work has _____.
B: It's not fair, sir. You never say anything _____ about my work.
- 4. **A:** The word 'literally' is so _____ these days! People drop it into every sentence!
B: Yeah, and they don't just use it too much – they _____ it, with a totally wrong meaning!
- 5. **A:** Don't worry, I'm confident the jury will find you not _____.
B: They'd better! I'm completely _____!

5. What's the opposite of ... ?

1. a clear sky / a clear conscience
2. a hard mattress / a hard exam
3. a light color / a light sleeper
4. a live animal / a live concert
5. a tough question / some tough meat
6. fair hair / a fair decision

6. What is the effect of using antonyms in these conversations?

A: What **lousy** weather!

B: Yes, it's **not exactly tropical**, is it?

A: Oh, this food's **awful**, isn't it?

B: Well, it's not the most delicious meal I've had, that's for sure.

7. Write similar conversations about these topics.

- a small hotel room
- a boring party
- some stale bread
- a stingy friend
- a hard exam
- a tough steak

Listen and compare.  Audio 4.11

1. Listen and repeat the pairs of lines. Which lines are more polite?



1.

Where's the station?

Could you tell me where the station is, please?

2.

Have you got change for a £10 note?

I'm sorry to bother you, but could you possibly change a £10 note?

2. Listen to five pairs of conversations. After each pair, say which conversation is more polite. Which expressions made it polite?



3. Read the audio script 4.13. Underline the expressions which make the conversations sound polite.

Audio script

- 1a.

A: Would you mind if I opened the window?
B: I'd rather you didn't, actually. It's not exactly boiling in here.
- 1b.

A Can I open the window?
B No, I'm cold.
- 2a.

A: Can you come to our barbecue next Saturday?
B: No, I can't.
- 2b.

A: Can you come to our barbecue next Saturday?
B: Oh, sorry, I'm afraid I'm away all next weekend. What a pity!
- 3a.

A: Can you help me carry this box upstairs?
B: Yeah, if you want.
- 3b.

A: Could I ask you a favour? Would you mind giving me a hand carrying this box upstairs?
B: No, not at all. I'd be happy to help.
- 4a.

A: Excuse me. Do you think you could turn your music down a bit?
B: I'm so sorry. I didn't realize it was so loud. I'll turn it down right away.
- 4b.

A: Can you turn your music down?
B: Yeah, all right.
- 5a.

A: Can you check my CV for me?
B: Sorry, too busy.
- 5b.

A: Could you possibly have a look at my CV and see if you think it's OK?
B: I'm afraid I haven't got time at the moment. Is there anyone else you could ask?

4. Make the requests and offers more polite.

Would you mind ...ing? I could ... if you like.

I wonder if I could ...? Could you possibly ...?

Would you like me to ...?

Would you mind if I ...?

Do you happen to know ...?

Do you think you could ...?

I wonder if you could ...?

- 1. Can I come in?
- 2. Can I put some music on?
- 3. Check my homework!
- 4. I'll give you a lift.
- 5. I'll make you something to eat!
- 6. Lend me a fiver!
- 7. Look after my dog on Saturday afternoon.
- 8. Where's the toilet?

5. Role Play. Take turns to make the polite requests and offers in 4 and refuse them politely. Use the expressions in the box.

It's OK, thanks. I ...
I'm afraid I ...
I'd rather you didn't I'd love to, but ...
That's very kind of you, but ...
I'm really sorry, but ...
I would if I could, but ...

Listen and compare.  Audio 4.14

6. Sophie and Gavin have invited two of their friends, Henry and Camila, round for dinner. What you do think Camila says?

Gavin: Camila! Hello! Come on in. Let me take your coat.
Camila: ...
Sophie: Ah, what lovely flowers! Thank you – that's very kind of you! Now, I'd better get on with preparing dinner.
Camila: ...
Sophie: Thank you, but there's no need, it's nearly ready. But first let me introduce you to Henry. Henry, this is Camila.
Henry: Hello, Camila. Nice to meet you. I've heard a lot about you.
Camila: ...
Henry: Of course! So, where exactly are you from, Camila?
Camila: ...
Henry: That's interesting. And what are you doing in London?
Camila: ...
Henry: Really? I didn't know that.
Gavin: Now, Camila. Would you like me to get you a drink?
Camila: ...
Gavin: Absolutely. I'll just get that for you.
Camila: ...
Sophie: Right, everybody! Dinner's ready! Come and sit down. Camila, could you sit over there, next to Henry?
Camila: ...
Gavin: Has everyone got a drink? Great. Cheers, everybody!
Camila: ...
Sophie: Camila, help yourself. Would you like some cheesy parsnips?
Camila: ...
Sophie: Well, they're parsnips coated in parmesan cheese and roasted. Would you like to try some?
Camila: ...
Gavin: Some more wine, perhaps?
Camila: ...
Gavin: Yes, of course. Sparkling or still?
Camila: ...
Henry: Well, bon appétit, everyone!

Listen and compare.  Audio 4.15



Question forms

Notice these question forms.

- Subject questions with no auxiliary verb.

Who broke the glass?

What happens at the end of the movie?

- Other ways of asking Why?

What did you do that for?

How come you got here before us?*

* *How come ...?* Expresses surprise Notice that there is no inversion and no do/does/did in this question form.

what and which

1. What and which are used with nouns to make questions.

What size shoes do you take?

Which of these sauces is the softest?

2. Sometimes there is no difference between questions with what and which..

What / Which is the biggest city in your land?

What / Which channel is the programme on?

3. We use which when we have a limited number of choices in mind.

There's a red one and a white one. **Which** do you want?

What truck do you drive? *

* We use what when we aren't thinking of a limited number of choices.

Asking for descriptions

1. What is X like? means Give me some information about X because I don't know anything about it.

What's your city **like**? **What** are your parents **like**?

2. How is X? asks about a person's health and happiness.

How's your mother these days?

Sometimes both questions are possible. *What ... like?* asks for objective information. *How ...?* Asks for a more personal reaction.

'What was the concert **like**? 'Long. Lots of people.'

'How was the show?' 'Fab. I danced all night. Met lots of people.'

Indirect questions

There is no inversion and no *do / does / did* in indirect questions.

I wonder *what* Maria **is doing**.

~~I wonder what is Maria doing.~~

I don't know *where* Tom **lives**.

~~I don't know where does Tom live.~~

Could you tell me *when* the library **opens**?

I didn't understand *what* he **was saying**.

I've no idea *why* she **went to** Brazil.



Forming negatives

1. The verb *have* has two negative forms in the present.

I **don't** have any money

I **haven't** got

But, in the past, only ... I **didn't** have any money.

2. *Infinitives* and *-ing* forms can be negative.

We decided **not to do** anything.

I like **not working**. It suits me.

3. *Not* can go in other parts of a sentence without a verb.

Ask him, **not me**.

Buy me anything, but **not chocolate**.

4. In negative ideas with verbs such as *think*, *believe*, *suppose*, and *imagine*, we make the first verb negative, not the second.

I **don't think** you're right. ~~I think you aren't ...~~

I **don't suppose** you want a game of tennis?

5. In short answers, the following forms are possible.

Are you coming?

'I think so.' 'I believe so.' 'I hope so.' 'I don't think so.' 'I hope not.'

Negative questions

1. Negative questions can express various ideas.

Haven't you **finished** uni yet? (surprise)

Don't you **think** we should talk to them? (suggestion)

Wouldn't it **be** better to start next week? (persuasion)

Can't you **see** I'm busy? Go away! (criticism)

Isn't it a lovely evening? (exclamation)

2. In the main use of negative questions, the speaker would normally expect a positive situation, and is therefore surprised.

Don't you **like** chocolate? Everyone likes chocolate!

Haven't you **done** your work yet? What have you been doing?

3. Negative questions can also be used to mean. Confirm what *I think is true*. In this use it refers to a positive situation.

Haven't I **met** you somewhere before? (I'm sure I have.)

Didn't we **speak** about this last Monday? (I'm sure we did.)

4. The difference between the two uses can be seen clearly if we change them into sentences with question tags.

You haven't done your homework yet, **have you?** (- sentence, + tag)

We've met before, **haven't we?** (+ sentence, - tag)