

73 Word order in questions and imperatives



1 Questions

Question forms can be

- *be* + subject: *Are you happy? Was she late yesterday?*
- auxiliary/modal verb + subject + main verb: *Do you understand?*

Questions can also contain an object and other phrases. We usually put a question mark (?) at the end of a question.

AUXILIARY / MODAL VERB	SUBJECT	MAIN VERB	OBJECT
<i>Can</i>	<i>she</i>	<i>speak</i>	<i>French?</i>
<i>Did</i>	<i>it</i>	<i>snow</i>	<i>last winter?</i>

Modal verbs ► Module 9 More on questions ► Units 77 and 78

2 Imperatives

We use the infinitive form for imperatives. We use *don't* + infinitive to make a negative imperative. We sometimes put an exclamation mark (!) at the end of an imperative, to make it stronger.

POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
<i>Come in!</i>	<i>Don't worry.</i>
<i>Take a seat.</i>	<i>Don't forget your keys!</i>
<i>Stop talking!</i>	<i>Don't start writing yet.</i>

- ! ✗ *You listen to me. I'm talking.* (This is not polite.)
✓ *Listen to me. I'm talking.*

We use imperatives to:

- give orders: *Stand up!*
- give instructions: *Mix the eggs and milk together.*
- give warnings: *Don't go out in this weather. It's horrible.*
- offer something: *Have a biscuit.*
- ask for something: *Pass the salt, please.*

In public signs, we don't use imperatives:

- ✗ *Don't smoke.*
✓ *No smoking*
✗ *Don't park.*
✓ *No parking*