

## UNIT 48. Questions (1)

A. We usually make questions by **changing the word order**: we put the first auxiliary verb (AV) before the subject (S):

Tom will -> will Tom? \* Will Tom be here tomorrow?

you have -> have you? \* Have you been working hard?

I can -> can I? \* What can I do? (not 'What I can do?')

the house was -> was the house? \* When was the house built? (not 'When was built the house?')

B. In **present simple questions**, we use **do/does**:

you live -> do you live? \* Do you live near here?

the film begins -> does the film begin? \* What time does the film begin? (not 'What time begins ...?')

In **past simple questions**, we use **did**: you sold -> did you sell? \* Did you sell your car?

the accident happened -> did the accident happen? \* How did the accident happen?

**But do not use do/does/did in questions if who/what/which is the subject of the sentence.**

Compare: **who object**

Emma telephoned \_somebody.

\_Who did Emma telephone?

-**who subject** \_Somebody\_(subject) telephoned Emma.

\_Who\_(subject) telephoned Emma?

In these examples, who/what/which is the subject:

\* Who wants something to eat? (not 'Who does want')

\* What happened to you last night? (not 'What did happen')

\* Which bus goes to the city centre? (not 'Which bus does go')

C. Note the **position of prepositions** in questions beginning Who/What/Which/Where ...?:

\* Who do you want to speak **to**?

\* What was the weather like yesterday?

\* Which job has Jane applied **for**?

\* Where do you come from?

#### **D. Negative questions** (isn't it ...?/didn't you ...?)

We use negative questions especially to show **surprise**:

\* Didn't you hear the bell? I rang it four times.

or when we **expect the listener to agree with us**:

\* 'Haven't we met somewhere before 'Yes, I think we have.'

\* Isn't it a beautiful day! (= It's a beautiful day, isn't it?)

**Note** the meaning of **yes** and **no** in answers to negative questions:

\* Don't you want to go to the party? Yes. (=Yes, I want to go)

\* Don't you want to go to the party? .No. (=No, I don't want to go)

**Note the word order in negative questions beginning Why ...?:**

\* Why don't we go out for a meal tonight? (not 'Why we don't...')

\* Why wasn't Mary at work yesterday? (not 'Why Mary wasn't...')