Unit 9: MAKING QUESTIONS

Question formation is usually different from the formation of statements. We either change the word order or use do.

**With be (Unit 16)**

Put the verb before the subject.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATEMENT</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>They are French.</td>
<td>Are they French?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>His father’s name is Patrick.</td>
<td>What is his father’s name?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**With one-word verb formations**

Put the correct form of the verb do before the subject.

Present tense: 3rd person singular (Unit 2)

| STATEMENT | Question | |
|-----------|----------|
| She works in a bank. | Does she work in a bank? |

Present tense: all other persons

| STATEMENT | Question | |
|-----------|----------|
| They live near the airport. | Where do they live? |

Past tense:

| STATEMENT | Question | |
|-----------|----------|
| They left last week. | When did they leave? |

**NOTICE:** After do, use only the base form of the verb.

We say:  
- Does he work?  
- Did she go?  
- What do you do?  
- What does he do?  
- What did she do?

*NOT*  
- does he works  
- did she goes

Do can also be the lexical verb (Unit 3) of a sentence. For example:

**With other verb formations**

Put the first word (only) of the verb before the subject.
**STATEMENT**
- They are watching television.

**QUESTION**
- Are they **watching** television?

**STATEMENT**
- I can see the plane.

**QUESTION**
- Can you **see** the plane?

**STATEMENT**
- She has gone to England to study.

**QUESTION**
- Why has she **gone** to England?

**STATEMENT**
- The new airport will be built here.

**QUESTION**
- Where will the new airport **be built**?

**STATEMENT**
- It has been snowing for two hours.

**QUESTION**
- How long has it **been snowing**?

**NOTICE:** It does not matter how many words there are in the subject. One word of the verb always goes before it.

We say:  
**Do** the people who live on the corner **have** another house?  
When **will** the new terminal for the Toronto Airport **be finished**?

**BUT** if the question word is also the subject, we do not put anything before it (Unit 10).

**Word agreement**

We normally use ‘negative words’ (Unit 5.4) with questions:

- Have you got **any** money?  NOT **some**  
- Have you finished **yet**?  NOT **already**

But if we think or hope that the answer to the question will be **yes**, we can use ‘affirmative words’:

- Have you got **some** money?  You are my friend, and I want to borrow some from you.  
- Have you finished **already**?  It seems to me that you are finished, but this surprises me.

It is better to ask **Would you like** **some** coffee? Because we hope the answer will be **yes**. It is friendly.