

# How we can teach making questions in a simple way.

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When we teach making questions, we usually start with a positive sentence. Let's take this example:

**I saw her yesterday.**

Then we explain to our students what to change in this sentence to get a question. In our example, we come up with:

**Who did you see yesterday?**

Look carefully and put yourselves in your students' shoes: doesn't it look really difficult? First of all, what does the question have in common with the positive sentence? Hmm...'yesterday'. Secondly, to make a question, you first must make a positive sentence, and then transform it into something totally different following all those rather complicated rules. How is it even possible in everyday life communication? It isn't. So why it takes our students many, many years to learn to make precise questions. Yet questions are a very important part of our everyday life communication, if not the most important one!

To help our students make precise questions, let's realise that:

**A QUESTION IS A QUESTION –  
NOT A CONVERTED POSITIVE SENTENCE!**

**EACH QUESTION CONTAINS THREE BASIC AREAS:**

DEFINITION OF WHAT WE DON'T KNOW (IF NEEDED)	TIME	ACTION
	<b>Did</b> <b>Do</b> <b>Will</b>	you <b>call</b> your mum?  _____
	<b>*Does</b>	he <b>call</b> his mum?
<b>When</b>	<b>did</b> <b>do</b> <b>will</b>	you <b>call</b> your mum?  _____
	<b>*does</b>	he <b>call</b> his mum?

**WHEN A SIMPLE WH- QUESTION WORD IS NOT ENOUGH:**

<b>How many times a week</b>	<b>did</b> <b>do</b> <b>will</b>	you <b>call</b> your mum?  _____
	<b>*does</b>	she <b>call</b> her mum?
<b>Which of your friends</b>	<b>did</b> <b>do</b> <b>will</b>	you <b>like</b> the best? they <b>like</b> the best?  _____
	<b>*does</b>	she <b>like</b> the best?
<b>Which of your friends from Brighton</b>	<b>did</b> <b>do</b> <b>will</b>	you <b>like</b> the best? they <b>like</b> the best?  _____
	<b>*does</b>	she <b>like</b> the best?
<b>Which of your friends from Brighton who teach at university</b>	<b>did</b> <b>do</b> <b>will</b>	you <b>call</b> yesterday?  _____
	<b>*does</b>	Eva <b>know</b> as well?
<b>Which of your absolutely delightful female blonde friends from beautiful Brighton who teach English both at university and in the secondary school, and who also speak perfect Spanish and Italian but only a little bit of French, and who don't speak neither Japanese nor Mandarin at all</b>	<b>did</b> <b>do</b> <b>will</b>	you <b>like</b> the best? they <b>like</b> the best?  _____
	<b>*does</b>	he <b>like</b> the best?

