Word order in questions: verb to be and present simple

In English grammar, word order plays an important role, especially in forming questions. When asking questions using the verb "be" or the present simple tense, the typical word order is as follows:

Questions with "be" as the main verb:

Structure

Question word + verb "be" + subject + other elements

Examples**:**

- Where is he going?
- Is she a doctor?
- Are they at home?
- Are you late for work?
- Is he at the party?



In this structure, the question word (such as **where**, **what**, **who**, **how**, **why**, **which, when etc**.) is placed at the beginning, followed by the verb "**be**," then the subject, and finally any other elements in the sentence.

Questions with the present simple tense:

Structure

Question word (if applicable) + auxiliary verb "do" + subject + main verb (infitnitive form) + other elements

Examples**:**

- Do you like ice cream?
- Do you like to read?
- Does she play the piano?
- Does he have a pet?
- Do we need to buy groceries?



In this structure, the question word (if applicable) can be placed at the beginning, followed by the auxiliary verb "**do**," then the **subject**, the **main verb** (in its infinitive form), and finally any other elements in the sentence.
It's important to note that when the auxiliary verb "**do**" is used to form questions in the present simple tense, the **main verb** is in its base form (infinitive without "to").

Word order in questions exercise 1:

Choose the correct answer to complete the sentence.

1. ____ you going to the party?
a) Are
b) Do
c) Is
d) Does

2. ____ he like ice cream?
a) Do
b) Does
c) Is
d) Are

3. ____ they coming with us?
a) Does
b) Do
c) Is
d) Are

4. ____ she play the piano?
a) Do
b) Are
c) Is
d) Does

5. ____ it raining outside?
a) Do
b) Does
c) Is
d) Are

6. ____ we have any milk left?
a) Is
b) Does
c) Do
d) Are

7. ____ he know the answer?
a) Are
b) Does
c) Is
d) Do

8. ____ they watching a movie?
a) Do
b) Are
c) Is
d) Does

9. ____ she live in this neighborhood?
a) Do
b) Is
c) Does
d) Are

10. ____ you have a bus ticket?
a) Do
b) Does
c) Are
d) Is



Word order in questions exercise 2:

Complete the question using the words in brackets.

1. _____ **(be/you/ready)** for the meeting?

2. _____ **(he/do/often/travel)** for work?

3._____ **(be/she/from/Spain)**?

4. _____ **(he/do)** work on weekends?

5. _____ **(be/you/happy)** with your new job?

6._____ **(be/she/always/late)** for class?

7. _____ **(be/he/interested)** in learning Spanish?

8._____ **(be/it/cold)** outside?

9._____ **(you/do)** like chocolate?

10. _____ **(they/do/live)** in London?

11. _____ **(your/friends/do/live)** nearby?

12. _____ **(she/do/speak)** English fluently?

13._____ **(he/do/have)** a pet cat?

14. _____ **(the/movie/do/start)** at 7 p.m.?

15. _____ **(it/do/rain)** often in this area?

16._____ **(you/do/visit)** your grandparents regularly?

17. _____ **(she/do/enjoy)** playing the piano?

18._____ **(we/do/have)** any plans for the weekend?

19._____ **(they/do/live)** in a big house?

20. _____ **(it/do/take)** a long time to get there by bus?

Word order in questions: be and present simple: answer key

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Where two or more answers are given, any of them is correct.

Exercise 1

1. a) Are
2. b) Does
3. d) Are
4. d) Does
5. c) Is
6. c) Do
7. b) Does
8. b) Are
9. c) Does
10. a) Do

Exercise 2

1. Are you ready
2. Does he often travel
3. Is she from Spain
4. Does he
5. Are you happy
6. Is she always late
7. Is he interested
8. Is it cold
9. Do you
10. Do they live
11. Do your friends live
12. Does she speak
13. Does he have
14. Does the movie start
15. Does it rain
16. Do you visit
17. Does she enjoy
18. Do we have
19. Do they live
20. Does it take