

## UNIT 4

### ▶ 4.1 Questions

#### Question forms

Notice these question forms.

- Subject questions with no auxiliary verb  
*Who broke the window?*  
*What happens at the end of the book?*
- Questions with prepositions at the end  
*Who is your letter from?*  
*What are you talking about?*
- Question words + noun/adjective/adverb  
*What sort of music do you like?*  
*How big is their new house?*  
*How fast does your car go?*
- Other ways of asking Why?  
*What did you do that for?*  
*How come you got here before us?*  
*How come ...?* expresses surprise. Notice that there is no inversion in this question form.

#### what and which

- 1 *What* and *which* are used with nouns to make questions.  
*What size shoes do you take?*  
*Which of these curries is the hottest?*
- 2 Sometimes there is no difference between questions with *what* and *which*.  
*What/which is the biggest city in your country?*  
*What/which channel is the match on?*
- 3 We use *which* when the speaker has a limited number of choices in mind.  
*There's a blue one and a red one. Which do you want?*  
We use *what* when the speaker is not thinking of a limited number of choices.  
*What car do you drive?*

#### Asking for descriptions

- 1 *What is X like?* means Give me some information about X because I don't know anything about it.  
*What's your capital city like?*  
*What are your parents like?*
- 2 *How is X?* asks about a person's health and happiness.  
*How's your mother these days?*  
Sometimes both questions are possible. *What ... like?* asks for objective information. *How ...?* asks for a more personal reaction.  
*'What was the conference like?' 'Noisy. Lots of people. It went on till 6.'*  
*'How was the conference?' 'Brilliant. I had a good time. Met loads of interesting people.'*  
*How was your journey?*  
*How's your new job going?*  
*How's your meal?*

#### Indirect questions

There is no inversion and no *do/does/did* in indirect questions.

- I wonder what she's doing.* \*I wonder **what is she doing.**  
*I don't know where he lives.* \*I don't know **where does he live.**  
*Tell me when the train leaves.*  
*Do you remember how she made the salad?*  
*I didn't understand what she was saying.*  
*I've no idea why he went to India.*  
*I'm not sure where they live.*  
*He doesn't know whether he's coming or going.*

### ▶ 4.2 Negatives

#### Forming negatives

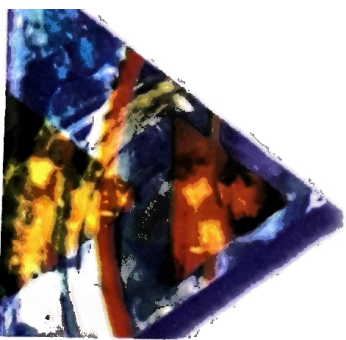
- 1 We make negatives by adding *not* after the auxiliary verb. If there is no auxiliary verb, we add *do/does/did*.  
*I haven't seen her for ages.*  
*It wasn't raining.*  
*You shouldn't have gone to so much trouble.*  
*We don't like big dogs.*  
*They didn't want to go out.*
- 2 The verb *have* has two forms in the present.  
*I don't have* | any money.  
*I haven't got* | any money.  
But ... *I didn't have any money.*
- 3 Infinitives and *-ing* forms can be negative.  
*We decided not to do anything.*  
*I like not working. It suits me.*
- 4 *Not* can go with other parts of a sentence.  
*Ask him, not me.*  
*Buy me anything, but not perfume.*
- 5 When we introduce negative ideas with verbs such as *think, believe, suppose, and imagine*, we make the first verb negative, not the second.  
*I don't think you're right.* \*~~*I think you aren't ...*~~  
*I don't suppose you want a game of tennis?*
- 6 In short answers, the following forms are possible.

Are you coming?	'I think so.'
	'I believe so.'
	'I hope so.'
	'I don't think so.'
	'I hope not.'

  
*I think not* is possible. \*~~*I don't hope so*~~ is not possible.

#### Negative questions

- 1 Negative questions can express various ideas.  
*Haven't you finished school yet?* (surprise)  
*Don't you think we should wait for them?* (suggestion)  
*Wouldn't it be better to go tomorrow?* (persuasion)  
*Can't you see I'm busy? Go away!* (criticism)  
*Isn't it a lovely day!* (exclamation)
- 2 In the main use of negative questions, the speaker would normally expect a positive situation, but now expresses a negative situation. The speaker therefore is surprised.  
*Don't you like ice-cream? Everyone likes ice-cream!*  
*Haven't you done your homework yet? What have you been doing?*
- 3 Negative questions can also be used to mean *Confirm what I think is true*. In this use it refers to a positive situation.  
*Haven't I met you somewhere before? (I'm sure I have.)*  
*Didn't we speak about this yesterday? (I'm sure we did.)*
- 4 The difference between the two uses can be seen clearly if we change them into sentences with question tags.  
*You haven't done your homework yet, have you?* (negative sentence, positive tag)  
*We've met before, haven't we?* (positive sentence, negative tag)



# 4 Nothing but the truth

Questions and negatives • Prefixes and antonyms • Being polite

## TEST YOUR GRAMMAR

1 Make the sentences negative. Sometimes there is more than one possibility.

*I disagree / don't agree with you.*

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <i>don't</i> 1 I agree with you.      | <i>didn't</i> 5 I knew everybody in the school.  |
| <i>didn't</i> 2 I think you're right. | <i>haven't</i> 6 I've already done my homework.  |
| <i>isn't</i> 3 I told her to go home. | <i>needn't</i> 7 You must get a visa.            |
|                                       | <i>dislikes</i> 8 My sister likes shopping, too. |

2 Write in the missing word in each question.

- |   |
|---|
| <i>kind</i> 1 'What of music do you like?' 'Jazz.'                          |
| <i>often</i> 2 'How do you wash your hair?' 'Every other day.'              |
| <i>like</i> 3 'Who do you look?' 'My mother.'                               |
| <i>long</i> 4 'How does it take you to get to school?' 'Nearly an hour.'    |
| <i>about</i> 5 'What were you talking to the teacher?' 'Oh, this and that.' |
| <i>is</i> 6 'Do you know what the time?' 'Just after three.'                |

Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

## ✓ Asking for more information

- 3 We can respond to a statement with a short question to ask for more information.

I went out for a meal last night.

Who with?

My aunt sent me a postcard.

Where from?

Write short questions with a preposition to answer these statements.

- 1 She gave away all her money. *to whom?*
- 2 Can I have a word with you, please? *What about?*
- 3 I studied for the exam all night. *who with?*
- 4 I need £5,000 urgently. *What for?*
- 5 I got a lovely present today. *from whom?*
- 6 I bought a birthday card today. *where from?*
- 7 Sh! I'm thinking! *About what?*
- 8 Do you think you could give me a lift? *where to?*

# CONSPIRACY THEORY 3

## THE DEATH OF JOHN F KENNEDY JR.

The world's TOP conspiracy theories

John Kennedy Junior, son of assassinated US president JFK, was killed on July 17th 1999 when his tiny Piper Saratoga aircraft crashed over Martha's Vineyard, near Boston. He was piloting the plane on the way to a family wedding with his wife Carolyn. To millions of Americans, JFK Junior was the closest thing to royalty the United States has ever had, and, as with his father, with every anniversary of his death they come up with ever more bizarre conspiracy theories to explain the tragedy.



One of the wildest theories claims that Kennedy Junior, known as 'John John', was murdered by Clinton supporters because he planned to stand against Hillary Clinton in the New York senate race.

Another theory asserts that an explosion, heard over Martha's Vineyard at the time of the crash, suggests that terrorists placed a bomb on the tiny plane. It is claimed that leaked FBI documents record the discovery of explosives glued within its tail.

*'Some of the explanations for the plane crash are patently ridiculous.'*

A third theory blames Kennedy's beautiful blonde wife, Carolyn. It is suggested that she caused the crash by chatting on her mobile phone just as the plane ran into turbulence over Martha's Vineyard, thus interfering with the controls while her husband was desperately trying to make an emergency landing. However, the most popular theory of all blames the crash on the legendary Irish curse said to have taken the lives of so many of the Kennedy clan. This curse, reputed to have followed the Kennedy dynasty over from Ireland, is said to strike when Kennedy members are around water. John John's uncle Joseph Kennedy Jr. died in a flight over water during World War II, while another uncle, Teddy Kennedy, drove off a bridge into water at Chappaquiddick - spookily, the plane crash happened on the 30th anniversary of the Chappaquiddick incident.

*'Some of the explanations for the plane crash are patently ridiculous,' says a Kennedy watcher. 'Others like the cell phone theory are based on recorded information and are pretty plausible.'*



## Antonyms

- 1 Compare these sentences.  
Which antonyms are used?  
Which sounds better in context?

*Some theories are plausible but others are implausible.*

*Some theories are plausible but others are ridiculous.*

- 2 Antonyms can sometimes be formed with a negative prefix. What is the negative prefix for these words?

<i>believable</i>	<i>honest</i>	<i>responsible</i>
<i>legal</i>	<i>credible</i>	<i>probable</i>

3 Make these requests and offers more polite. Use the expressions below.

- 1 Give me a lift.
- 2 Help me find my glasses!
- 3 Come for a meal tomorrow evening!
- 4 Lend me your dictionary.
- 5 Look after my cat while I'm on holiday.
- 6 Where's the toilet?
- 7 Can I help you with this exercise?
- 8 Stop whistling!

Could you possibly ... ?

*infinitive*

*ing*

Would you mind (not) ... ?

I wonder if you could ... ?

*infinitive*

Do you think you could ... ?

*infinitive*

Would you like (me) to ... ?

*infinitive*

*clause*

Do you happen to know ... ?