

QUESTION FORMS : basic rules

1. Questions are made by putting an auxiliary verb before the subject.

Have you **received** my letter of June 17th?
Is your mother **coming** tomorrow?

auxiliary	subject	main verb
have	you	received
is	your mother	coming

Note that only the auxiliary is put before the subject. The rest of the verb phrase comes after it:

Where **are** the president and his family **staying**?

2. When a verb phrase has no auxiliary its question form is made with **do**, followed by the infinitive without *to*.

Do you **like** Mozart?
What **does** 'periphrastic' **mean**?

3. **Do** is not used to make questions with *can*, *must*, *should*, *may* etc., or *be*:

Can you **tell** me the time? (not *Do you can...)
Are you ready? (not *Do you be...)

4. When *who*, *what* or *which* is the subject of a sentence, it comes directly before the verb, and **do** is not used:

Who **left** the door open?

If *who*, *what* or *which* is the object of a sentence, the normal rules are followed:

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