



Present Simple Questions

Asking questions in the present simple tense can be tricky and this is because there are two different structures we can use. The first structure uses the auxiliary verb “do” and the second structure uses the auxiliary verb “be”.

Structure 1

Verb To Do	Subject	Infinitive Verb
Do	I	dance?
Do	you	sing?
Does	he	walk?
Does	she	read?
Does	It	watch TV?
Does	Hannah	run?
Do	we	speak English?
Do	they	talk to?
Do	the students	do homework?

We must use structure 1 when we have a main verb. This verb must be in the infinitive form. You can see lots of examples above (dance, sing, walk, read).

Remember, you can insert a question word before all of this structure too.

Question Word	Verb To Do	Subject	Infinitive Verb
Where	do	I	dance?
Why	do	you	sing?
When	does	he	walk?
What	does	she	read?
How	does	It	watch TV?
How quickly	does	Hannah	run?
When	do	we	speak English?
Who	do	they	talk to?
How long	do	the students	do homework?

Structure 2

Verb To Be	Subject	...
Am	I	happy?
Are	you	sad?
Is	he	a teacher?
Is	she	excited?
Is	it	interesting?
Is	Hannah	bored?
Are	we	in a house?
Are	they	at work?
Are	the students	the best?

We must use structure 2 when we don't have a main verb. The verb to be is quite selfish and must be the only verb in the question in the present simple. After the subject, you could have a noun, a noun phrase or an adjective.

Remember, you can insert a question word before all of this structure too.

Question Word	Verb To Be	Subject	...
Why	am	I	happy?
When	are	you	sad?
How	is	he	a teacher?
When	is	she	excited?
How long	is	it	interesting?
Where	is	Hannah	bored?
Why	are	we	in a house?
How long	are	they	at work?
When	are	the students	the best?

Putting It Together

Let's take an example...

1) Where _____ you live?

We can see an infinitive verb here (live), so we know we must use structure 1

Where **do** you live?

2) Why _____ he unhappy?

We can't see any verbs here, so we know we must use structure 2

Why **is** he unhappy?