# ESOL E2 – Forming information questions

# 1 of 16 – Introduction

Welcome to this session on forming information questions.

This session will cover:

* Types of questions
* Question words
* Forming questions about the subject and object of a sentence
* Forming questions from answers

# 2 of 16 – Questions

# There are two main types of questions:

* Yes or no questions – these questions can only be answered with ‘yes’ or ‘no’
* Two paintings

In this session, we will be learning about information questions.

# 3 of 16 – Information questions

Information questions are used to try to find out some specific information about something from another person.

For example, we could use information questions to find out more about this house:

* Where is it?
* Who lives there?
* How many bedrooms are there?
* How far is the house from the nearest train station?
* What kind of material is the roof made of?
* When was it built?
* Why was the photo taken?

# 4 of 16 – Question words

Did you notice the different words at the start of the questions?

There are many different question words we can use to get information. Here are some examples:

Who: ‘Who’ questions are used to identify a person or a group of people.

Example:

Who is he?

**What**: ‘What’ questions are used to identify a thing.

Example:

What is it?

**Which**: ‘Which’ questions are used to tell two or more things apart.

Example:

Which arm hurts?

**Where:** ‘Where’ questions are used to identify a place.

Example:

Where does the bus go to?

**When:** ‘When’ questions are used to identify a time.

Example:

When is your birthday?

**Why:** ‘Why’ questions are used to identify a reason.

Example:

Why are you sad?

**What kind:** ‘What kind’ questions are used to identify a type or kind.

Example:

What kind of cat do you have?

**How:** ‘How’ questions are used to explain a way or method.

Example:

How did you do that?

**How long:** ‘How long’ questions are used to explain length or duration.

Examples:

How long is the film? How long is your hair?

**How far:** ‘How far’ questions are used to identify distance.

Example:

How far is your house from the beach?

**How much or many:** ‘How much’ or ‘how many’ questions are used to identify quantity.

Example:

How much money do you have with you?

**How often:** ‘How often’ questions are used to identify frequency.

Example

How often do you go on holiday?

# 5 of 16 – Forming questions - subject

To understand how to form a question, we need to know if we are forming a question about the subject or object of a sentence.

Look at this sentence:

Sami likes Lucas.

In this sentence, Sami is the subject, and Lucas is the object.

Now, imagine that some information is missing, so we need to ask a question: **Blank** likes Lucas.

Here, the subject is missing, so we need to use a question word for subjects. These words are who and what, generally. Because we are asking about a person, we will use who.

Question: **Who** likes Lucas?

Answer: Sami likes Lucas.

# 6 of 16 – Forming questions - object

Now, let’s imagine that the object of the sentence is missing: Sami likes **blank**.

When the object is missing, we need to do two things to make a question:

1. We have to choose the correct question word. Because we are talking about a person, we will use ‘who’ again (you can also use ‘whom’ for questions about objects).
2. We need to add a helping verb to help us make a question. The sentence “Sami likes Lucas” doesn’t have a helping verb (no modal or auxiliary verb like will, can, have or is), so we will add the helping verb ‘do’ to make the question.

Question: **Who** does Sami like?

Answer: Sami likes Lucas.

# 7 of 16 – Forming questions - object continued

Did you notice that we changed (conjugated) the helping verb ‘do’ to ‘does’?

The question ‘Who do Sami like?’ is INCORRECT because the verb needs to agree with the subject. ‘Sami’ is the third person singular, so we need to change the auxiliary verb from ‘do’ to ‘does’.

The correct question is:

Who does Sami like?

# 8 of 16 – Ingrid’s diary

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Monday | Dentist 3pm |
| Tuesday | Collect medication from pharmacy |
| Wednesday | Meeting with Aisha at 10.00 |
| Thursday | Phone electrician between 8-9am |
| Friday | Grocery shopping after work |
| Saturday | Suzy coming for lunch |
| Sunday | 11.00 Meet Zac for lunch at Teacup Café  Yoga at 3pm |

Monday and Tuesday are past tense.

Wednesday is the present.

Thursday to Sunday are the future.

Ingrid has a diary. She writes down her appointments each day.

On the following slides, you will be answering and asking questions using the information in Ingrid’s diary. To do this you need to imagine today is Wednesday.

Look at her diary carefully. Remember, because you are imagining that today is Wednesday, you need to:

* Use past tense verbs for past events
* Using ‘going to’ for future events

# 9 of 16 – Question 1

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Monday | Dentist 3pm |
| Tuesday | Collect medication from pharmacy |
| Wednesday | Meeting with Aisha at 10.00 |
| Thursday | Phone electrician between 8-9am |
| Friday | Grocery shopping after work |
| Saturday | Suzy coming for lunch |
| Sunday | 11.00 Meet Zac for lunch at Teacup Café  Yoga at 3pm |

What did Ingrid do on Monday? Use the missing words to complete the answer:

Ingrid **blank** to the **blank** at **blank**.

Words: dentist, went, is going, 3pm, coffee shop, 10.00

Answer: Ingrid **went** to the **dentist** at **3pm**.

# 10 of 16 – Question 2

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Monday | Dentist 3pm |
| Tuesday | Collect medication from pharmacy |
| Wednesday | Meeting with Aisha at 10.00 |
| Thursday | Phone electrician between 8-9am |
| Friday | Grocery shopping after work |
| Saturday | Suzy coming for lunch |
| Sunday | 11.00 Meet Zac for lunch at Teacup Café  Yoga at 3pm |

What is Ingrid going to do tomorrow? Use the missing words to complete the answer:

Ingrid is going to **blank** the **blank** between **blank** tomorrow.

Words: phone, medication, lunch, 11.00, electrician, 8am and 9am

Answer: Ingrid is going to **phone** the **electrician** between **8am and 9am** tomorrow.

# 11 of 16 – Question 3

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Monday | Dentist 3pm |
| Tuesday | Collect medication from pharmacy |
| Wednesday | Meeting with Aisha at 10.00 |
| Thursday | Phone electrician between 8-9am |
| Friday | Grocery shopping after work |
| Saturday | Suzy coming for lunch |
| Sunday | 11.00 Meet Zac for lunch at Teacup Café  Yoga at 3pm |

When is Ingrid going to do her grocery shopping? Use the missing words to complete the answer.

Ingrid is **blank** do her grocery shopping **blank** on **blank**.

Words: went, going to, came, Friday, pharmacy, after work

Answer: Ingrid is **going to** do her grocery shopping **after work** on **Friday**.

# 12 of 16 – Question 4

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Monday | Dentist 3pm |
| Tuesday | Collect medication from pharmacy |
| Wednesday | Meeting with Aisha at 10.00 |
| Thursday | Phone electrician between 8-9am |
| Friday | Grocery shopping after work |
| Saturday | Suzy coming for lunch |
| Sunday | 11.00 Meet Zac for lunch at Teacup Café  Yoga at 3pm |

What is the missing question?

Question: **Blank**

Answer: Ingrid is meeting Zac at 11.00.

* What time is Ingrid meeting Zac on Sunday?
* Where is Ingrid meeting Zac on Sunday?
* What day is Ingrid meeting Zac?

Answer: **What time is Ingrid meeting Zac on Sunday?**

The answer is giving information about the time that Ingrid is meeting Zac.

# 13 of 16 – Question 5

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Monday | Dentist 3pm |
| Tuesday | Collect medication from pharmacy |
| Wednesday | Meeting with Aisha at 10.00 |
| Thursday | Phone electrician between 8-9am |
| Friday | Grocery shopping after work |
| Saturday | Suzy coming for lunch |
| Sunday | 11.00 Meet Zac for lunch at Teacup Café  Yoga at 3pm |

What is the missing question?

Question: **Blank**

Answer: Ingrid collected her medication from the pharmacy.

* What is Ingrid doing today?
* What is Ingrid going to do tomorrow?
* What did Ingrid do yesterday?

# Answer: **What did Ingrid do yesterday?**

# The answer is giving information about what Ingrid did yesterday.

# 14 of 16 – Question 6

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Monday | Dentist 3pm |
| Tuesday | Collect medication from pharmacy |
| Wednesday | Meeting with Aisha at 10.00 |
| Thursday | Phone electrician between 8-9am |
| Friday | Grocery shopping after work |
| Saturday | Suzy coming for lunch |
| Sunday | 11.00 Meet Zac for lunch at Teacup Café  Yoga at 3pm |

What is the missing question?

Question: **Blank**

Answer: She is meeting Aisha at 10 o’clock.

* Where is Ingrid meeting Aisha?
* What day is Ingrid meeting with Aisha?
* What time is Ingrid meeting with Aisha?

Answer: **What time is Ingrid meeting with Aisha?**

# The answer is giving information about the time that Ingrid is meeting Aisha.

# 15 of 16 – Question 7

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Monday | Dentist 3pm |
| Tuesday | Collect medication from pharmacy |
| Wednesday | Meeting with Aisha at 10.00 |
| Thursday | Phone electrician between 8-9am |
| Friday | Grocery shopping after work |
| Saturday | Suzy coming for lunch |
| Sunday | 11.00 Meet Zac for lunch at Teacup Café  Yoga at 3pm |

What is the missing question?

Question: **Blank**

Answer: It is on Sunday at 3pm

* What is Ingrid doing on Sunday?
* When is Ingrid’s yoga class?
* What is Ingrid going to do after meeting Zac for lunch?

# Answer: **When is Ingrid’s yoga class?**

# The answer is giving information about when the yoga class is.

# 16 of 16 – End

Well done.

You have completed this session on forming information questions.

We have covered:

* Types of questions
* Question words
* Forming questions about the subject and object of a sentence
* Forming questions from answers

If you have any questions about any of these topics, make a note and ask your tutor for more help.