# ESOL Entry 3 – Using Be and Do in Questions

# 1 of 24 - Welcome

Welcome to this session on using be and do in questions.

In this unit, you will learn when to use be and do when making questions.

Many learners get confused with this area, so it is a good thing to look at.

By the end of this unit you will be able to:

* Understand why we sometimes use be and sometimes use do in questions
* Form questions using be and do
* Use the word order of questions in English

# 2 of 24 - What is be used for?

In English, the verb **be** is used to:

Describe something or someone - *He* ***is*** *rich.*

Say that something exists - *They* ***are*** *animals.*

**Be** can also be used as a **helping word**, but we won’t look at that today

# 3 of 24 – Be, an irregular verb

In English, be is an irregular verb.

This means it changes depending on the person or the time:

PRESENT

I am hungry.

You are hungry.

He is hungry.

We are hungry.

1 The cat is hungry.

2+ The cats are hungry.

PAST

I was hungry.

You were hungry.

He was hungry.

We were hungry.

1 The cat was hungry.

2+ The cats were hungry

# 4 of 24 – Introducing be and do

Let’s look at two questions:

Where **are** (be) you from?

Where **do** (do)you come from?

These two questions basically mean the same thing but notice how the first question uses **be** (are), and how the second question uses **do**.

Why is this?

# 5 of 24 – The be or do rule

Look at the second question.

Where do you come from?

We have a main verb – the verb come.

If the question has a main verb, then in the present simple or past simple we

use the helping word do.

Where do you come (VERB) from?

# 6 of 24 – The be or do rule - continued

Where **do** you **come (VERB)** from?

Look at the second question:

Where **are** you from? (**NO VERB)**

**NO VERB = NO DO**

So, if there is **no verb**, then there is **no do**.

Also, if there is a **main verb** then we use **do**.

# 7 of 24 – Other forms of do

Earlier, we looked at how be changes.

I **am** hungry.

You **are** hungry.

He **is** hungry.

We **are** hungry.

I **was** hungry.

You **were** hungry.

He **was** hungry.

We **were** hungry.

The same is true for do:

Where do you live?

Where does she live?

Where did you live?

# 8 of 24 – Exploring be and do

Click [here](https://howcollege-my.sharepoint.com/personal/e8078_howcollege_ac_uk/Documents/be%20or%20do.mp4) to watch a video to explore two ways to think about using **be** and **do**.

Video Content:

‘Be or do? 2 ways to look at this.

Idea 1

Be. I am. You are. She is. I have been. I was. You were. She was. When there is no verb, we use be.

Where are you from? Worcester. Where do you come from? Droitwich.

Where are you from? (no verb). Where do you come (verb) from? No verb, no do.

Idea 2

+ She is here. Is she here? + She has been here. Has she been here? + We live in Worcestershire. We can’t say ‘live we in Worcestershire?’ No helping words. Be and have are helping words. To make a question or negative we need a helping word. If we don’t have a helping word, then we use do. We live in Worcestershire. Do we live in Worcestershire?’

# 9 of 24 – Question 1

Now, let’s do a quiz to test what you know. Don’t worry about making mistakes.

Practice makes perfect!

Is this sentence correct or not?

Where are you come from?

1. Correct
2. Incorrect

The correct answer is b: Incorrect.

# 10 of 24 – Question 2

Is this sentence correct or not?

What time you get up in the morning?

1. Correct
2. Incorrect

The correct answer is b: Incorrect.

# 11 of 24 – Question 2

Is this sentence correct or not?

What time you get up in the morning?

1. Correct
2. Incorrect

The correct answer is b: Incorrect.

# 12 of 24 – Question 3

Is this sentence correct or not?

Where does she live?

1. Correct
2. Incorrect

The correct answer is a: Correct.

# 13 of 24 – Question 4

Is this sentence correct or not?

I not like this weather.

1. Correct
2. Incorrect

The correct answer is b: Incorrect.

# 14 of 24 – Question 5

Is this sentence correct or not?

She isn’t at school any more.

1. Correct
2. Incorrect

The correct answer is a: Correct.

# 15 of 24 – Question 6

Is this sentence correct or not?

I don’t be in work tomorrow.

1. Correct
2. Incorrect

The correct answer is b: Incorrect.

# 16 of 24 – Question 7

Is this sentence correct or not?

Does she married?

1. Correct
2. Incorrect

The correct answer is b: Incorrect.

# 17 of 24 – Question 8

Is this sentence correct or not?

What time does she get home?

1. Correct
2. Incorrect

The correct answer is a: Correct.

# 18 of 24 – Question 9

Is this sentence correct or not?

I did born in 1976.

1. Correct
2. Incorrect

The correct answer is b: Incorrect.

# 19 of 24 – Question 10

Is this sentence correct or not?

Which kind of food does he like?

1. Correct
2. Incorrect

The correct answer is a: Correct.

# 20 of 24 – Question word order

In English, questions with **main verbs** usually follow a word order:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| QUESTION WORDS | AUXILIARY (helping words) | SUBJECT (person) | INFINITIVE (verb) | ANYTHING ELSE |
| Where | do | you | live? |  |
| How | did | she | get | here yesterday? |
| What | does | your mum | do? |  |
| – | Do | they | live | round here? |

# 21 of 24 – Question words

Sometimes, the question words have more than one word:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| QUESTION WORDS | AUXILIARY (helping words) | SUBJECT (person) | INFINITIVE (verb) |
| How many people | did | you | see? |
| What languages | do | you | Speak? |
| What kind of music | does | she | listen to? |

# 22 of 24 – Question 11

Let’s practise the word order of questions.

Drag and drop the words to complete the questions:

1. **What** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

do doing things like you

2. **What** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

for breakfast did have you this morning

3. **What** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

you did go to bed last night time

4. **How** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

did many you invite people

5. **Where** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

I last did my car keys see

**Answers:**

1. What things do you like doing?

2. What did you have for breakfast this morning?

3. What time did you go to bed last night?

4. How many people did you invite?

5. Where did I last see my car keys?

# 23 of 24 – Interactive task

Click here to download the interactive PDF and complete the task. ​

This is designed to test your skills from this session.

If you need some help, click the buttons to reveal some helpful hints. ​

# 24 of 24 – Session conclusion

Well done. You have completed this session on using be and do on questions.

You should now:

* Understand why we sometimes use be and sometimes use do in questions
* Form questions using be and do
* Use the word order of questions in English

If you have any questions about anything covered in this session, please speak to your tutor for more help.