

**7.50 Declarative questions:** It is a type of yes-no question identical in form to a statement except for the final rising question intonation:

1. You've got the exPLOsive?
2. They've spoken to the ambBAssador?
3. You realize what the RISKS are?
4. Boris will be THERE, I suppose?
5. He didn't finish the RACE?

(A) 9/12/2021

**7.51 Yes-no questions with modal auxiliaries:** Notice that the modals of 'permission', i.e. **may**, especially in BrE, and **can** and of 'obligation', i.e. **must**, especially BrE, and **have to** involve the speaker's authority in statements and the listener's authority in questions, as in:

1a. May I leave now?

b. Can I leave now?

c. Yes, you may.

d. Yes, you can.

2a. Must I leave now?

b. Do I have to leave now?

c. Yes, you must.

d. Yes, you have to.

**N.B.** A switch from listener to speaker takes place with **shall** ('volition') which (especially in BrE) implicates the speaker's will in statements, but the listener's will in questions, as we see in:

1. You shall suffer for this! (=I intend to make you suffer...!)

2. Shall I switch off the television? (=Do you want me to...?)

**N.B.** The direct-question use of **shall** is virtually restricted to first-person subjects. With **we**, it has both exclusive and inclusive senses:

1. Shall we carry your suitcases? (=Would you like us to...?)

2. Shall we have dinner? (=Would you like us [including you] to...?)

**N.B.** The modal **may** ('possibility') is not employed at all in questions; **can** (or more commonly, in AmE, **could**) takes its place, as in:

1a. Can they have missed the bus?

b. Could they have missed the bus?

c. Yes, they may have.

d. Yes, they might have.

**N.B. Need** (in BrE) is a non-assertive auxiliary in clauses where the corresponding positive form is **must**; notice:

1a. Need it happen? (=Does it need to happen?/Does it have to happen?)

b. Yes, it must.

c. Yes, it has to.

(e)

**7.52 Wh-questions:** Wh-questions are formed with the aid of one of the following interrogative words (or Q-words): **who, whom, whose, what, which; when, where, how, why.**

As a rule,

- 1.the Q-element generally comes first in the sentence;
- 2.the Q-word itself takes first position in the Q-element.

The only exception to the second principle is when the Q-word occurs in a prepositional complement;notice:

1a.**On what** did you base your prediction?(formal)

b.**What** did you base your prediction **on**?

**7.53 The Functions of the Q-element:**The following are sentences in which the Q-element operates in various clause functions:

- 1.**Who** opened my LETter?(Q-element:**S**)
- 2.**Which books** have you LENT him?(Q-element:**Od**)
- 3.**Whose beautiful anTIQUES** are these?(Q-element:**Cs**)
- 4.**How wide** did they make the BOOKcase?(Q-element:**Co**)
- 5.**When** will you come BACK?(Q-element:**Atime**)
- 6.**Where** shall I put the GLASSes?(Q-element:**Aplace**)
- 7.**Why** are they always comPLAINing?(Q-element:**Areason**)
- 8.**How** did you MEND it?(Q-element:**Aprocess**)
- 9.**How much** does he CARE?(Q-element:**Aintensifying**)
- 10.**How long** have you been WAITing?(Q-element:**Aduration**)
- 11.**How often** do you visit New YORK?(Q-element:**Afrequency**)

**7.54 Alternative questions:** There are two types of alternative question:

1. one resembling a yes-no question, and
2. a wh-question

Ex: 1. Would you like CHOColate, vaNILLa, or STRAWberry

(ice-cream)?

2. Which ice-cream would you LIKE? CHOColate, vaNILLa, or STRAWberry?

3. Shall we go by BUS or TRAIN? By BUS. (alternative)

4. Shall we go by bus or TRAIN? No, let's take the CAR.

**7.56 Minor types of question:**

**Exclamatory question:** It is a question in form, but is functionally like an exclamation. The most characteristic type is a negative yes-no question with a falling instead of rising tone, as we see in:

1. Hasn't she GROWN?

2. Wasn't it a marvellous CONCert?

16/12/2021  
(E)

**7.57 Rhetorical question:** It is the one that functions as a forceful statement. A positive rhetorical question is like a strong negative assertion, while a negative question is like a strong positive one.

Positive: 1. Is that a reason for desPAIR? (=Surely that is not a reason...)

2. Can anyone doubt the wisdom of this action? (=Surely no one can doubt...)

Negative: 1. Is no one going to deFEND me? (=Surely someone is going to defend me).

**7.58 Commands:** Types of command in English:

Commands without a subject, as in:

1. Jump. (V)
2. Be reasonable. (V C)
3. Put it on the table. (V Od Aplace)

**7.59 Commands with a subject,** as in:

1. **You** be quiet!
2. **You** mind your own business, and leave this to me!

**N.B.** A command could begin with a third-person subject, as shown in:

1. **Somebody** open this door.
2. **Everybody** shut their eyes.
3. **Jack and Susan** stand over there.

**7.60 Commands with 'let',** as in:

1. Let us all work hard. (=Let's...)
2. Let me have a look.

**N.B.** We could use a 3<sup>rd</sup>-person subject with 'let', as illustrated below:

1. Let each man decide for himself.
2. If anyone shrinks from this action, let him speak now.