



## UNIT2

# Question formation and tag question



# Yes/no questions

1. Here are some 'yes/no' questions:

- Are you hungry?
- Shall I answer the phone?
- Did you enjoy the film?

We call them 'yes/no' questions because the answer is either 'yes' or 'no':

Are you hungry?

Yes, I am.

No, I'm not.

# Yes/no questions

2. We form 'yes/no' questions like this:

We put the verb **be** before the subject

**be** + **SUBJECT**

Are they busy?

Is he ready?

Was she here?

With Present Simple verbs, we put **do** or **does** before the subject

**do** + **SUBJECT** + **VERB**

Does she work in Paris?

Do they live in New York?

Do you play tennis?

Does he like ice-cream?

## Yes/no questions

With Past Simple verbs, we put **did** before the subject

**did + SUBJECT + VERB**

**Did she visit Paris?**

**Did he go to Spain?**

### 3. Here are all the forms of do questions

#### PRESENT SIMPLE

*Do I / you / we / they*

*Does he / she / it*

#### PAST SIMPLE

*Did I / he / she / it /*

*you / we / they*

} *work?*

**A. Make 'yes/no' questions from these statements.**

1. She is thirsty.

**Is she thirsty ?**  
.....

2. He can swim well.

**Can he swim well ?**  
.....

3. They were tired after the match.

**Were they tired after the match ?**  
.....

4. She will return to Mexico.

**Will she return to Mexico ?**  
.....

**A. Make 'yes/no' questions from these statements.**

5. I may leave now.

**May I leave now ?**

.....

6. They have all left.

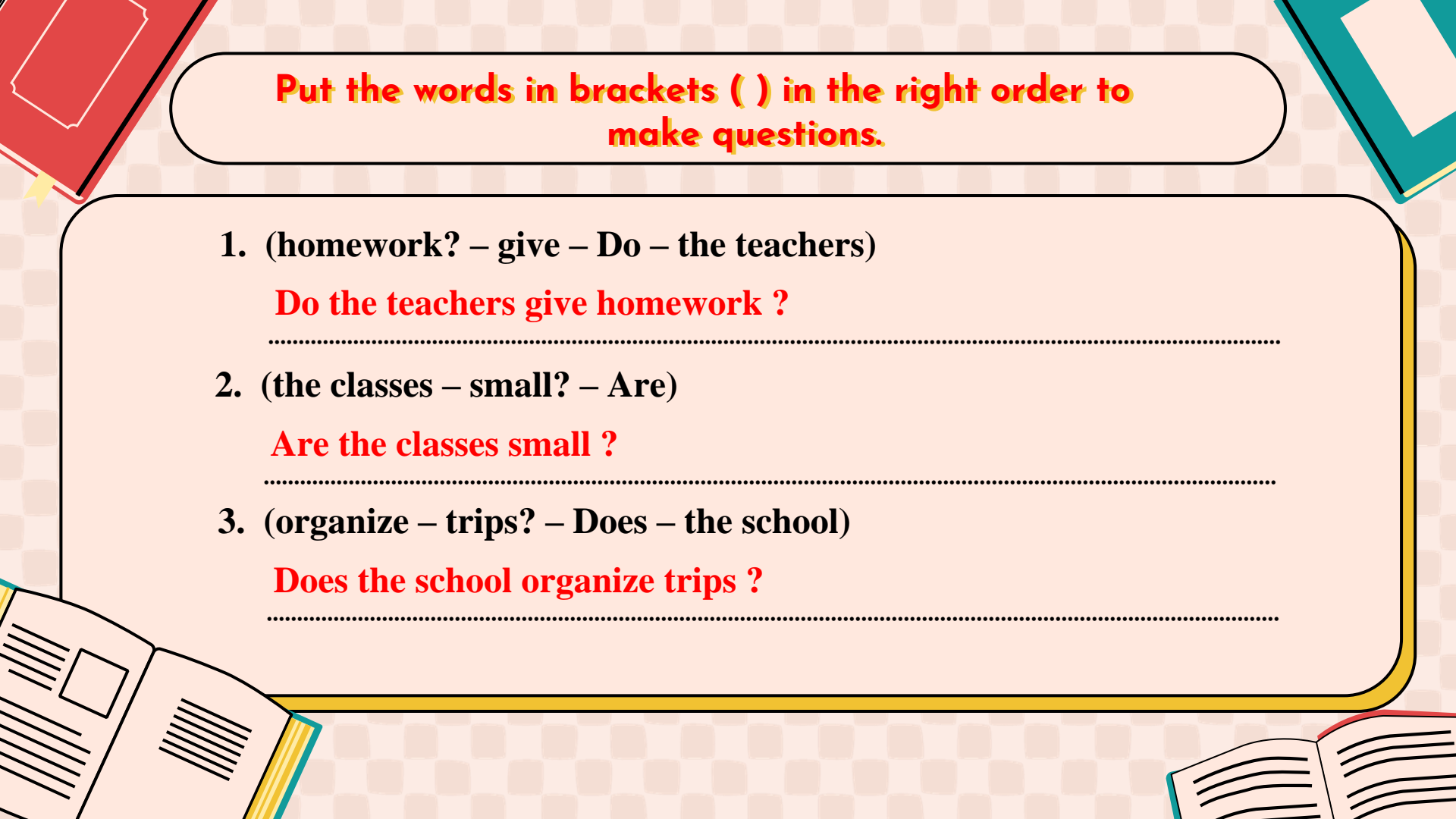
**Have they all left ?**

.....

7. We shall wait a little longer.

**Shall we wait a little longer ?**

.....



**Put the words in brackets ( ) in the right order to make questions.**

**1. (homework? – give – Do – the teachers)**

**Do the teachers give homework ?**

.....

**2. (the classes – small? – Are)**

**Are the classes small ?**

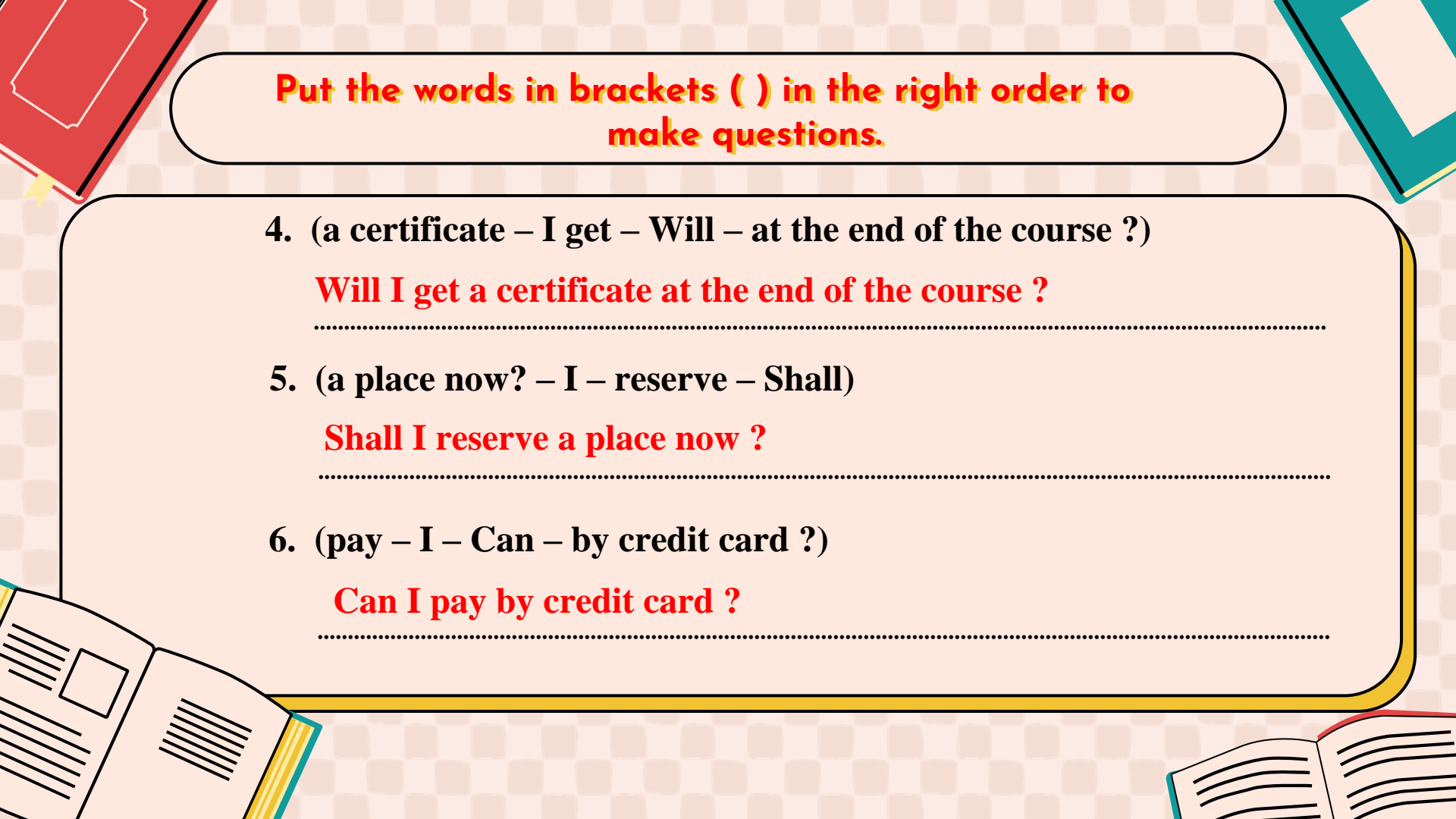
.....

**3. (organize – trips? – Does – the school)**

**Does the school organize trips ?**

.....





**Put the words in brackets ( ) in the right order to make questions.**

**4. (a certificate – I get – Will – at the end of the course ?)**

**Will I get a certificate at the end of the course ?**

.....

**5. (a place now? – I – reserve – Shall)**

**Shall I reserve a place now ?**

.....

**6. (pay – I – Can – by credit card ?)**

**Can I pay by credit card ?**

.....



# Where, when, why, how

1. Where, when, why, and how are question words, We use them like this:

## Where

We use **where** to ask about places:

***Where** is Mike? – He's **at home**.*

## When

We use **when** to ask about time and dates:

***When** will you phone? – **At six o'clock**.*

# Where, when, why, how

1. Where, when, why, and how are question words, We use them like this:

## Why

We use **why** to ask about the reason for something:

**Why** is Mary taking a taxi? – **Because** her car isn't working.

## How

We use **how** to ask 'in what way?':

**How** did he get to Brighton? – He went by train.



## Where, when, why, how

2. We use **what** and which to ask about things:

**What** film did you see at the cinema?

**Which** newspaper do you want, The Times or the Daily Telegraph?

We normally use **what** when there are many possible answers

We normally use **which** when there is a small number of possible answers



**Put who, what or which  
in the gaps.**



01

WHO



WHAT

WHICH



**What**..... did you eat last night ?





02

WHO

WHAT



WHICH

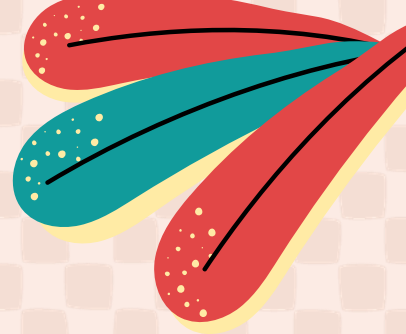


.....Who... are you writing to ?





03



WHO

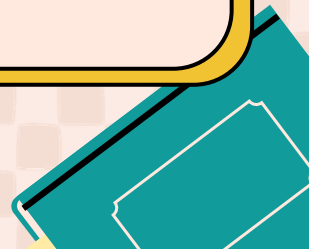


WHAT

WHICH



**What** ..... 's the answer to question 13 ?







04

WHO



WHAT



WHICH

**Which** ..... pen is yours, the green one or the blue one?





## How long/far/often ....?

1. We use How long ...? to ask about a period of time:

How long have you been waiting? – About twenty minutes.

How long will the journey take? – Three hours.

We use from ... to or from ... until to talk about a period of time:

She was a student from 1995 to 2000.

Tomorrow I'm working from 8.30 until 6.





## How long/far/often ....?


2. We use How far ...? to ask about the distance from one place to another.

We can use from and to with the places we are asking about:

- How far is it from Amsterdam to Paris? – 475 kilometres.
- How far are the shops from here? – Not far.

3. We use How often ...? to ask about the number of time something happens.

We can use phrases like every day, once a week, etc. in the answer:

- How often do the buses run? – Every hour.
  - How often do you play squash? – Twice a week.
- 




## How long/far/often ....?

4. We can use How much ...? to ask about the price of something.

- How much is a return ticket to Florence?
- How much did you pay for this car?

5. We use How much ...? with an uncountable noun to ask about the amount of something. An uncountable noun cannot be plural because it describes something that cannot be counted (e.g. bread, work, weather, money, music, meat, milk, cheese).

- How much bread is there in the cupboard?
  - How much work have you done today?
- 



## How long/far/often ....?

6. We use How many ...? with a plural noun to ask about numbers:

- How many students are in your class? – Fifteen.
- How many people went to the party? – Ten.


7. We use How old ...? to ask about someone's age:

- How old are you? – I'm 19.

Note that we say: I am 19, OR: 19. (NOT ~~I have 19.~~)

- We can also say: I'm 19 years old.

But we cannot say: ~~I'm 19 years.~~



Make each question using the words in brackets ( ), and How old,  
How much, How many, etc. Put the verb into the correct tense.

**How many languages do you speak**

1. A : ..... (languages/you/speak) ?

B : I speak three – English, French and Chinese.

2. A : **How far is it from here to the airport** ..... (it/be/from here to the airport) ?

B : It's about 25 kilometres.

3. A : **How much did the meal cost** ..... (the meal/cost) ?

B : I can't remember, but it wasn't very expensive.

Make each question using the words in brackets ( ), and How old, How much, How many, etc. Put the verb into the correct tense.

4. A : **How long did you stay there** ..... (you/stay there) ?

B : I stayed there from June until October.

5. A : **How often does the postman come** ..... (the postman/come) ?

B : He comes twice a day.

6. A : **How much cheese did you buy** ..... (cheese/you/buy) ?

B : I bought half a kilo.

Complete each of these sentences by putting one word into each gap.

1. The program lasts ..... **from** 8.30 ..... **until** 10 o'clock.
2. There is a train to the center ..... **every** thirty minutes in the morning.
3. How ..... **much** money have you got?
4. How far is it ..... **from** here ..... **to** the city centre?
5. My grandfather is seventy ..... **years old** .....
6. How ..... **many** countries have you visited?





## Question tags

1. A question tag is a short question (e.g. **isn't it?**, **haven't we?**) that we can add at the end of a statement:

Henry : We've met before, **haven't we?**

Jeff : Yes, we have.



## Question tags

2. Look at this part of a conversation:

Anna : Sandra is Swiss.

David : No, she's French, **isn't she?**

(= I thought she was French, but am I wrong?)

When tag questions really are questions, like David's, the voice goes up at the end.

But when tag questions are not really questions, the voice goes down at the end:

That was a boring program, **wasn't it?**

(= I think that was a boring program.)

## Question tags

3. Note that the verb we use in the tag depends on the verb used in the statement:

	VERB	+	TAG
be:	you're		aren't you?
verb:	He plays		doesn't he?
auxiliary verb:	It has		hasn't it?

Thus, most verbs use *do/does*, while *be* and *auxiliary verbs* use the same verb in the question tag.

## Question tags

4. A positive statement has a negative tag:

POSITIVE

I'm right,

You're 18.

They're getting tired,

They were friendly,

He lives in France

You speak Spanish,

You passed your exams,

She has left,

You can drive,

+ NEGATIVE

aren't I? (NOT ~~am't I?~~)

aren't you?

aren't they?

weren't they?

doesn't he?

don't you?

didn't you?

hasn't she?

can't you?

## Question tags

5. A negative statement has a positive tag:

### NEGATIVE

It isn't very cheap,

We aren't going to be late,

She wasn't angry,

You don't like this,

She didn't win,

She hasn't visited Ireland,

She can't drive,

It won't rain today,

### + POSITIVE

is it?

are we?

was she?

do you?

did she?

has she?

can she?

will it?

**Complete the conversation by putting in question tags.**

**Tim:** We haven't met before, (►) ..... **have we** ..... ?

**Jo:** No, I've just arrived in this country.

**Tim:** You come from Australia, (1) ..... **don't you** .....?

**Jo:** Yes, from Sydney.

**Tim:** It's very hot there, (2) ..... **isn't it** .....?

**Jo:** Most of the time, but not always.

Complete the conversation by putting in question tags.

Tim: But it never gets very cold, (3) .....**does it**.....?

Jo: No, well, not as cold as some places.

Tim: They speak English there, (4) .....**don't they**.....?

Jo: Yes, that's right.

Tim: You haven't been here long, (5) .....**have you**.....?

Jo: No, I only got here two weeks ago.

Tim: You're on holiday, (6) .....**aren't you**.....?

Jo: Yes, I'm travelling around for six months.



01

can't I

can I

I can use this ticket on any bus, can't I ?







02

can you

can't you

2. You can't play the piano, ..... can you ?



03

was he

wasn't he

3. He wasn't very polite, ..... was he ?





04

did I

didn't I

4. I didn't make a mistake, did I..... ?



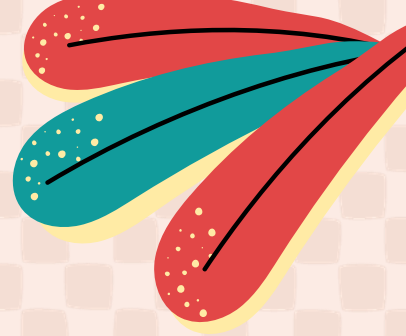
05

does she

doesn't she

5. She comes from Italy, .....doesn't she ?





**Thank you  
for today**

