

CLASSIFICATION OF INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES

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Annotation: *This article provides general and specific information about interrogative sentences, their types, classification, usage, and benefits.*

Keywords: *Classification of interrogative sentences, wh-interrogatives, yes/no interrogatives, alternative interrogatives, tag questions.*

Annotatsiya: *Ushbu maqolada so‘roq gaplar, uning turlari, klassifikatsiyasi, qo‘llanilishi va foydalanishi haqida umumiy va xususiy ma’lumotlar mavjud.*

Kalit so‘zlar: *Classification of interrogative sentences, wh-interrogatives, yes/no interrogatives, alternative interrogatives, tag questions.*

Interrogative sentence. In English language there are four types of sentences based on their function. Interrogative sentence is one among them. About this type of sentence we have already explained in the article named type of sentences. In this article we shall learn about interrogative Sentence in much more detail.

What is interrogative sentence? An interrogative sentence is a sentence which asks direct question. It starts in a capital letter and ends in a question mark. In this type of sentence there is *inversion of subject and predicate*. That is, that the verb of the predicate comes before the subject.

Examples: Where did it come from?

Interrogative sentences are mostly used to get information and also for requesting for something, giving some suggestions or offering something etc. Using

interrogative sentences, we can get people to do things. For this we take the help of helping verbs such as can, shall etc.

Can I take one cup, please?(Requesting)

Shall we go by bus? (suggestion)

Can I carry the bag for you? (offering)

May I take one of these samples? (Asking for permission.)

Inversion of auxiliary verb and subject.

In a sentence (clause) generally subject comes first and then predicate. This is the normal word order. If there is an object, the English sentence conforms to subject +verb +object (SVO) word order.

Example: He is playing. (This is a statement.”He”, the subject, comes first and then the predicate,” is playing”)

Tom eats a mango. (In this statement Tom, the subject, comes first and the predicate comes afterwards.)

When verb comes before the subject, we say that there is “*inversion of subject and verb*”

In order to form interrogative sentences, we have to take the help of auxiliary verbs.

Example: Is he playing? (In this question, the auxiliary verb, “is” comes first and then the subject, “he”).

Note: In wh- interrogative sentences, a question word can be the subject of an interrogative sentence. In such cases, there is no inversion and the word order is the same as a statement.

Example: Who told you that he was there? (“Who” is subject and there is no inversion.)

Types of Interrogative sentences. There are four types of interrogative sentences.

1. Wh-interrogatives
2. Yes/No interrogatives
3. Alternative interrogatives

4. Tag questions.

1. Wh-interrogatives

Wh-interrogatives are questions that begin with question words. A question word or interrogative word is a function word whose function is to ask a question. There are nine question words in English language. They are also called wh- words because excluding “how”, all the other question words start with wh-. The question words and the formation of the interrogative sentences using each of these question words are given below.

Question words: Who, where, when, why, what, which, whose, whom and how are called question words as these are mostly used to ask questions. A question word can be subject, object, complement or adverbial. When the question word is subject, there is no inversion subject and verb. That is, the word order will be the same as in a statement. Questions that begin with “who”. “Who” is always used to refer person or people. It is a pronoun and cannot come before a noun.” Who” can be subject, an object of a verb and it can be the object of a preposition too. When who is object we can use whom instead. But who is more common in every day speech.

Examples: Who was the chief guest? (Subject)

Who did you invite to inaugurate your shop? (object)

Who were you referring to? (object of preposition)

2. Yes/No interrogatives. Yes/No interrogatives are questions that can be answered with either a yes or no. These are formed with the help of auxiliary verbs. These auxiliary verbs are inverted with the subject.

Examples: Do you go to the library daily?

3. Alternative interrogatives. Alternative interrogatives are questions that give the listener a choice of two or more answers in the question. These are also called choice questions. The alternative questions are generally formed using an auxiliary verb (be, do or have) or a modal verb. The beginning of the question can be an

auxiliary/model verb. If any conjugated form of “be” is acting as the main verb, then separate auxiliary verb is not required.

Examples: Do you want to go to Ooty, or Goa?

4. Tag questions. Tag questions are questions formed by attaching question tags onto the end of the declarative sentences, i.e., statements. When the statement is positive the tag will be negative and vice versa. The tag questions are used for getting confirmation.

Examples: Ann is laughing, isn't?

Note: In the positive sentences (the highlighted questions may be noted); “Do” is not required. But the question tags require “Do”, in appropriate conjugated form.

This, that, these or those are not used in a question tag. But if the subject in the statement is “there”, it can be used in the question tag.

Examples: There are a lot of mangoes on the tree, aren't there?

There were a lot of trees here before, weren't there?

Rhetorical questions. Rhetorical questions are questions that are asked for effect. The speaker actually does not expect an answer .perhaps he knows the answer and he is asking the question just to create an impact. Some rhetorical questions may not have any answer at all.

Examples: What is happening to our youth today?

Indirect questions/embedded questions. Some declarative sentences have questions embedded in them. They are not to be treated as questions and question mark should not be put at the end. These follow the normal SVO pattern. They are used to politely ask for something. Especially when we are talking to someone we don't know. If the indirect question is inside a question, then there should be question mark at the end.

Examples: Jill asked where the well was. (“Where the well was”, is embedded in a statement. There is no question mark at the end).

REFERENCES

1. Academic Databases: Utilize databases like JSTOR, Google Scholar, or PubMed. Use relevant keywords such as "interrogative sentences classification" to find academic articles.
2. Check the catalogs of your local library or university library. Librarians can assist you in finding relevant books on the topic.
3. Libraries: Websites like Project MUSE, ResearchGate, or the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) may have articles related to your query.