

BUSINESS VITAMINS

Question Types

Introduction

When Thomas Kuhn said “the answers you get depend on the questions you ask,” he was definitely onto something.

Questions have over the years evolved to different question types to now collect different sets of information. The types of question used in a research study are decided by the information required, nature of the study, the time needed to answer, and the budget constraints of a study.

Asking questions is a simple task, but it can also have major implications. When you need certain facts, information or input, how you request them shapes the length, detail and adequacy of responses you'll receive. The art of asking the right questions helps to gain deep insights, make informed decisions, and develop effective solutions. To know how to ask good questions, understand the basic question types.

Definition

A question is a sentence that seeks an answer for information collection, tests, and research.

When to use it

For clarification, or to know more about a specific subject.

Details

Here are the 4 main types of questions:

General or Yes/No Questions:

Common questions that can be answered with a simple “yes” or “no” are logically called yes/no questions. As a rule, this kind of question relates to the whole sentence, and not to a separate element of it.

For example:

Do you like this country?
Does Jane know about your new job?
Can I call my sister?

To ask such general questions, the appropriate rising intonation should be used at the end of the sentence. The answer can be a brief “yes” or “no.” Or, a longer answer can be given: “Yes, I do.” “No, I don’t like this country.” The response to a question depends on the verb used. Try to remember this formula: answer the question the way it was asked.

Special or Wh-Questions - A special question, as you can guess, uses a certain word at the beginning of the sentence to ask a specific question. The questions words who, what, where, when, why, how, how many, etc., are used to begin the question:

For example:

Where is he from?
When did you come here?
How did you meet her?

Note that questions about a subject (who? what?) have their own special structure; they do not require an auxiliary verb, we replace the subject with the question word.

Choice Questions

Choice questions are questions that offer a choice of several options as an answer (you might recognize them from your exams as multiple-choice questions). They are made up of two parts, which are connected by the conjunction or. Choice questions can be either general, open-ended questions or more specific ones. If the question does not center on the subject of the sentence, a complete answer is needed.

For example:

Does she like ice cream or sweets? – She likes ice cream.

Where would you go, to the cinema or the theatre? – I would go to the cinema.

Disjunctive or Tag Questions

This type of question is also made up of two parts, where the first part is a positive statement, and the second part is negative, or vice-versa. The first part of the sentence defines the expected answer. If the statement is positive, a positive answer is expected; if the statement is negative, a negative answer is expected.

Tag questions are only used in conversational speech to clarify information or to confirm or refute something if there are doubts.

For example:

She sent him an invitation, didn't she? – Yes, she did.

MORE EXAMPLES:

Here are more examples of each question type:

General or Yes/No Questions

- Did you see Mark today?
- Do you like ice cream?

Special or Wh Questions

- Who goes to the cinema?
- What is on the table?
- What is your earliest memory?
- When did you finish the report?



Choice Questions

- Does she make it or do you?
- Is Mark the supervisor, or are you?
- Are you going to finish the report, or am I?

Disjunctive or Tag Questions

- You aren't getting married, are you?
- Jane isn't in France, is she?
- Our dad will come soon, won't he?