Questions & Negatives

CEFR B1 · Question forms, negation and indirect questions

WS1 Questions Across Tenses · WS2 Negation & Scope · WS3 Indirect & Embedded Questions · WS4 Editing & Writing · Answer Key

Worksheet 1: Questions Across Tenses

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B1 (CEFR)

Reference: The Auxiliary Carries the Question

In every tense, the question is formed by inverting the **auxiliary** with the subject. The main verb keeps the form the tense requires. Only the past simple and present simple need the "dummy" auxiliary **do/did**.

Tense	Question structure	Example
Present simple	do/does + subj + base	**Does** she **work** here?
Past simple	did + subj + base	**Did** they **leave**?
Present perfect	have/has + subj + pp	**Have** you **finished**?
Past continuous	was/were + subj + -ing	**Was** he **sleeping**?
Future (will)	will + subj + base	**Will** it **rain**?
Modal + passive	modal + subj + be + pp	**Must** this **be done** today?

Exercise – Form the Question

Write a question for each underlined answer, in the tense shown.

1. (present perfect) She has broken the vase. → What _____?
2. (past simple) They arrived at nine. → What time _____?
3. (past continuous) He was waiting for Anna. → Who _____?
4. (present simple) Sam owns the shop. → Who _____?
5. (future) The results will be sent tomorrow. → When _____?

Score: _____ / 20

Worksheet 2: Negation & Scope

Name: _____ *Date:* _____ *Level: B1 (CEFR)*

Reference: More Than One Way to Say No

Beyond *not*, English negates with words like **never, no, none, nobody, nothing, neither, hardly**. A clause normally carries **one** negative — a second one (*double negative*) is non-standard in formal English.

Method	Example	Note
auxiliary + not	I **didn't** see anyone.	neutral, standard
negative adverb	I **never** saw them.	no *not* needed
negative pronoun	I saw **nobody**.	verb stays positive
hardly / barely	I **hardly** knew her.	near-negative; no second *not*

> **Double negative alert: ✗ I didn't see nobody. → ✓ I didn't see anybody / I saw nobody.**

Part A – Rewrite Without a Double Negative

1. She didn't tell nobody. → _____
2. We haven't been nowhere. → _____
3. He didn't do nothing wrong. → _____
4. I can't find it nowhere. → _____

Part B – Negate the Sentence

Make each sentence negative using the word in brackets.

#	Positive → Negative	Rewrite
1	She has met the director. (never)	
2	They found something useful. (nothing)	
3	Everyone came to the meeting. (nobody)	
4	He speaks two languages. (neither)	
5	I understood the lecture. (hardly)	

Score: _____ / 25

Worksheet 3: Indirect & Embedded Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B1 (CEFR)

Reference: Questions Inside Sentences

When a question is embedded in a longer sentence (*Could you tell me…?*, *I wonder…*), the word order becomes **statement order** — no inversion, and **no do/did**. For yes/no questions, use **if** or **whether**.

Direct question	Indirect question
Where **is** the station?	Could you tell me where the station **is**?
What **did** she **say**?	I'd like to know what she **said**.
Does he **work** here?	Do you know **if** he **works** here?
Did they **arrive**?	She asked **whether** they **had arrived**.

Part A – Make it Indirect

1. Where does he live? → Do you know _____?
2. What time did the film start? → Can you tell me _____?
3. Is the shop open? → I wonder _____.
4. Why did she leave? → I'd like to know _____.
5. Has the parcel arrived? → Could you check _____?

Part B – Correct the Embedded Question

Each sentence keeps direct word order by mistake. Correct it.

#	Wrong sentence	Correction
1	Do you know where is the exit?	
2	Can you tell me what did he want?	
3	I wonder does she agree.	
4	She asked me where had I been.	

Score: _____ / 30

Worksheet 4: Editing & Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B1 (CEFR)

Part A – Intensive Edit

This text contains **eight** errors in questions or negatives (inversion, auxiliary, double negatives, or embedded word order). Find and correct them all.

> When I got home, my flatmate asked me where had I been. I told her I didn't go nowhere special — I just wanted to know did the new café open yet. She asked me have I tried their coffee, and I said I hadn't never been inside. "Do you know how much do they charge?" she said. I wasn't sure, so I suggested we find out together. Why we don't go tomorrow? Neither of us weren't busy, so we agreed.

#	Error	Correction
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

Part B – Guided Writing

Write 120–150 words: a dialogue in which one person interviews another about a past experience. You must include: (1) at least six questions in **at least three different tenses**; (2) at least two **indirect questions**; (3) at least two negatives that avoid a double negative.

#	Line
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

8	
9	

Tenses: _____ / 3 Indirect Qs: _____ / 2 Score: _____ / 35

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — B1 Level, Questions & Negatives

Worksheet 1 – Form the Question

1 What has she broken? · 2 What time did they arrive? · 3 Who was he waiting for? · 4 Who owns the shop? · 5 When will the results be sent?

Item 4 is a subject question — no *does*: "Who owns…?", not "Who does own…?". Item 3 retains the preposition (*waiting for* → "Who was he waiting for?").

Worksheet 2 – Part A

1 She didn't tell anybody / She told nobody. · 2 We haven't been anywhere. · 3 He didn't do anything wrong. · 4 I can't find it anywhere.

Worksheet 2 – Part B

1 She has never met the director. · 2 They found nothing useful. · 3 Nobody came to the meeting. · 4 He speaks neither language. · 5 I hardly understood the lecture.

Note the scope shift in 2 and 3: when the negative pronoun carries the negation, the verb stays positive (*found nothing*, not *didn't find nothing*).

Worksheet 3 – Part A

1 … where he lives? · 2 … what time the film started? · 3 … if/whether the shop is open. · 4 … why she left. · 5 … if/whether the parcel has arrived?

Worksheet 3 – Part B

1 Do you know where the exit is? · 2 Can you tell me what he wanted? · 3 I wonder if/whether she agrees. · 4 She asked me where I had been.

Worksheet 4 – Part A

1 where I had been · 2 I didn't go anywhere / I went nowhere · 3 whether the new café had opened · 4 whether I had tried · 5 I had never been / I hadn't ever been · 6 how much they charge · 7 Why don't we go tomorrow? · 8 Neither of us was busy

Worksheet 4 – Part B: Marking Guide

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Question range	Six or more questions across three tenses	0–5
Indirect questions	Statement order; if/whether where needed	0–4
Negation control	No double negatives; varied negation	0–3
Task & length	120–150 words; dialogue coherent	0–3