

L'INTERROGATION

In French, there are two ways of forming questions: *est-ce que* and *inversion*. There is no difference in the result between these two forms. They are both very common, but the *est-ce que* form is probably more common in speaking. You will need to know both.

Est-ce que on its own doesn't have any meaning. It's similar to our *do* and *does* in English when we form questions. When using this form, all you need to do is place the *est-ce que* in front of the subject and then complete the rest of the sentence. The basic formula is as follows:

***Est-ce que** + subject + verb + rest of sentence?**

(you may not always need a rest of sentence.)

Example:

<i>Est-ce que tu chantes bien?</i>	Do you sing well?
<i>Est-ce qu'il arrive à trois heures?</i>	Does he arrive at 3:00?
<i>Est-ce que tu as un stylo?</i>	Do you have a pen?
<i>Est-ce qu'ils sont professeurs?</i>	Are they teachers?

*Note: When the word ***que*** is followed by a vowel, it must be contracted by dropping the *e* and adding an apostrophe.

Inversion questions are questions in which the verb and the subject are flip-flopped or "inverted" in French sentence structure. All you need is a hyphen between the verb and the subject. This formula can only be used with a subject pronoun/verb sentence structure. Also, do not use inversion when the subject of the sentence is "*je*." They have the same meaning as the questions formed with *est-ce que*. The difference is in the structure. The formula is as follows:

Verb + - + subject + rest of sentence?

Example:

<i>Chantes-tu bien?</i>	Do you sing well?
<i>Arrive-t-il à trois heures?*</i>	Does he arrive at 3:00?
<i>As-tu un stylo?</i>	Do you have a pen?
<i>Sont-ils professeurs?</i>	Are they teachers?

*Note: if the verb ends with a vowel and the subject begins with vowel, you need to add a *t* (with a hyphen on each side) for the sake of pronunciation. I know, it's weird!

These are the formulas for forming basic questions. On the back of this sheet you will find "question words." So, for more exciting information, turn the page quickly!!

The following words will help form questions. Some are placement prepositions and interrogative pronouns, but we will lump them under the prestigious title of *question words*! They are used when asking for specific information. When using these words, you may use them with either the *est-ce-que* form or the inversion form. The only difference from the basic form is that these words need to come first. The structures are as follows:

Question word + est-ce que + subject + verb + rest of sentence?
--

Où est-ce que tu habites?

Where do you live?

OR

Question word + verb + - + subject + rest of sentence?

Où habites-tu?

Where do you live?

Question words

que	what? (cannot be used alone)
qui?*	who? whom?
à qui?	to who? to whom?
de qui?	about who? about whom?
avec qui?	with who? with whom?
pour qui?	for who? for whom?
à quelle heure?	at what time?
quand?	when?
où?	where?
d'où?	from where?
comment?	how?
pourquoi?	why?

And the answer to the question why is....

parce que/parce qu'...

because...

quel(s)/quelle(s)?
just like in English.

which/what? Used only with nouns
Ex: Quelle voiture veux-tu?

Note: if the subject that follows the *que* in *est-ce que* begins with a vowel, the *que* becomes *qu'*.

Qu'est-ce que c'est?

What is it?

***Qui** is used in two ways:

1) When who is the subject of the sentence (who is doing something), *qui* is used with only a verb conjugated in the 3rd person singular mode: There is no *est-ce que* or inversion!!

Qui parle français?

Who speaks French?

Qui voyage demain?

Who is traveling tomorrow?

2) When who is not the subject, then *qui* is used with *est-ce que*, a subject and a verb:

Qui est-ce que tu invites?

Who are you inviting?

Qui est-ce qu'ils adorent?

Who do they adore?