

B1 ENGLISH

CHAPTER 3 Lesson 1

Grammar

In this lesson you will learn

<i>Grammar: Reported speech & Questions and auxiliary verbs: Unit 47-52</i>	<i>Completed</i>		<i>Your Score</i>
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	
❖ Unit 47: Reported speech 1 (<i>he said that ...</i>)	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 48: Reported speech 2	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 49: Questions 1	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 50: Questions 2 (<i>do you know where ...? / he asked me where ...</i>)	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 51: Auxiliary verbs (<i>have/do/can</i> etc) <i>I think so / I hope so</i> etc.	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 52: Question tags (<i>do you? isn't it?</i> etc.)	☐	☐	/

Reported speech 1 (he said that ...)

A Study this example situation:



PAUL

You saw Paul yesterday and you want to tell somebody what he said.

There are two ways of doing this:

You can repeat Paul's words (direct speech):

Paul said, '**I'm feeling ill.**'

Or you can use reported speech:

Paul said **that he was feeling ill.**

Compare:

direct Paul said, '**I am** feeling ill.'

reported Paul said that **he was** feeling ill.

In writing we use these quotation marks to show direct speech.

B When we use reported speech, the main verb of the sentence is usually past (Paul **said** that ... / I **told** her that ... etc.). The rest of the sentence is usually past too:

- ☐ Paul **said** that he **was** feeling ill.
- ☐ I **told** Lisa that I **didn't have** any money.

You can leave out **that**. So you can say:

- ☐ Paul **said that** he was feeling ill. or Paul **said** he was feeling ill.

In general, the *present* in direct speech changes to the *past* in reported speech:

am/is → was	do/does → did	will → would
are → were	have/has → had	can → could
want/like/know/go etc. → wanted/liked/knew/went etc.		

See also Unit 48A.

Compare direct and reported speech:

You met Anna. Here are some of the things she said in *direct* speech:

I've lost my phone.
I want to buy a car.
 I **can't** come to the party on Friday.
 I **don't** have much free time.
 My parents **are** fine.
 I**'m** going away for a few days.
 I'll phone you when I **get** back.



ANNA

Later you tell somebody what Anna said.
 You use *reported* speech:

- ☐ Anna said that she **had** lost her phone.
- ☐ She said that she **wanted** to buy a car.
- ☐ She said that she **couldn't** come to the party on Friday.
- ☐ She said that she **didn't** have much free time.
- ☐ She said that her parents **were** fine.
- ☐ She said that she **was** going away for a few days and **would** phone me when she **got** back.

C The *past simple* (**did/saw/knew** etc.) can stay the same in reported speech, or you can change it to the *past perfect* (**had done / had seen / had known** etc.):

- ☐ *direct* Paul said: 'I **woke** up feeling ill, so I **didn't go** to work.'
- ☐ *reported* Paul said (that) he **woke** up feeling ill, so he **didn't go** to work. or Paul said (that) he **had woken** up feeling ill, so he **hadn't gone** to work.

Exercises

47.1 You talked to some friends of yours (Paul, Tom, Anna etc.). Read what they said on the left (direct speech). Later (the same day) you tell another friend what they said (reported speech). Complete the sentences.

	direct speech	reported speech
	1 YOU: Are you going to work today, Paul? PAUL: No, I'm feeling ill.	Paul didn't go to work today. He said <u>he was feeling</u> ill.
	2 YOU: Shall we walk to the station? TOM: No, it's too far. Let's get a taxi.	I wanted to walk to the station, but Tom said far.
	3 YOU: Have you been invited to the party? ANNA: Yes, but I don't want to go.	Anna has been invited to the party but she told me to go.
	4 YOU: When are you going away, Dan? DAN: I'll let you know next week.	I asked Dan about his travel plans. He said next week.
	5 YOU: Do you ever see Rachel these days? BEN: I haven't seen her for a while.	I asked Ben about Rachel, but he told me for a while.
	6 YOU: Where can I borrow a guitar? KATE: You can borrow mine.	I needed to borrow a guitar and Kate said
	7 YOU: How's your job, Sue? SUE: I'm not enjoying it very much.	I asked Sue about her job. She said very much.
	8 YOU: Do you still have your car? JAMES: No, I sold it a few months ago.	I asked James about his car. He told me a few months ago.
	9 YOU: What's the name of the cafe we went to? SARAH: I don't know.	I asked Sarah the name of the cafe we went to but she said
	10 YOU: How many students are there in your class, Amy? AMY: Twenty.	I asked Amy about her school and she told me class.

47.2 Somebody says something to you which is not what you expected. Use your own ideas to complete your answers.

- A: It's quite a long way from the hotel to the city centre.
B: Is it? The man on the reception desk said it was only five minutes' walk.
- A: Sue is coming to the party tonight.
B: Is she? I saw her a few days ago and she said she
- A: Sarah gets on fine with Paul.
B: Does she? Last week you said each other.
- A: Joe knows lots of people.
B: That's not what he told me. He said anyone.
- A: Jane will be here next week.
B: Oh, really? When I spoke to her, she said away.
- A: I'm going out tonight.
B: Are you? I thought you said at home.
- A: I speak French quite well.
B: Do you? But earlier you said any other languages.
- A: I haven't seen Ben recently.
B: That's strange. He told me last weekend.

Reported speech 2

A

We do not always change the verb in reported speech. If the situation *is still the same*, it is not necessary to change the verb to the past. For example:

- ☐ *direct* Paul said, '**My** new job **is** boring.'
- reported* Paul said that **his** new job **is** boring.
(The situation is still the same. His job is still boring now.)
- ☐ *direct* Helen said, '**I want** to go to Canada next year.'
- reported* Helen told me that **she wants** to go to Canada next year.
(Helen still wants to go to Canada next year.)

You can also change the verb to the past:

- ☐ Paul said that his new job **was** boring.
- ☐ Helen told me that she **wanted** to go to Canada next year.

But if the situation has *changed or finished*, you need to use a past verb. Compare:

- ☐ Paul left the room suddenly. He said '**I have to go.**' (*direct speech*)
- Paul left the room suddenly. He said (that) **he had to go.** (*not has to go*)

B

You need to use the past in reported speech when what was said is different from what is really true. For example:

You met Rachel a few days ago. She said:

- ☐ Have you heard? **Joe is in hospital.**

Later that day you meet Joe in the street. You say:

- ☐ Joe, this is a surprise. Rachel said you **were** in hospital.
(*not 'you are in hospital' – it's clear that he isn't*)



Joe is in hospital.



Rachel said
you **were**
in hospital

JOE

C

say and tell

If you say *who* somebody is talking to, use **tell**:

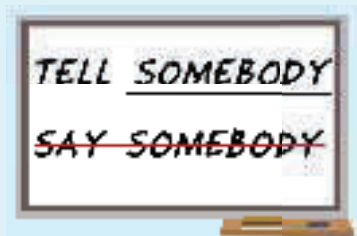
- ☐ Rachel **told me** that you were in hospital. (*not Rachel said me*)
- ☐ What did you **tell the police**? (*not say the police*)

Otherwise use **say**:

- ☐ Rachel **said** that you were in hospital.
(*not Rachel told that ...*)
- ☐ What did you **say**?

You can '**say** something **to** somebody':

- ☐ Anna **said** goodbye **to** me and left. (*not Anna said me goodbye*)
- ☐ What did you **say to** the police?



D

We say '**tell** somebody **to** ...' and '**ask** somebody **to** ...'.

Compare direct and reported speech:

- ☐ *direct* '**Drink** plenty of water,' the doctor said to me.
- reported* The doctor **told me to drink** plenty of water.
- ☐ *direct* '**Don't work** too hard,' I said to Joe.
- reported* I **told Joe not to work** too hard.
- ☐ *direct* 'Can you help me, please,' Jackie said to me.
- reported* Jackie **asked me to help** her.

You can also say 'Somebody **said (not) to** do something':

- ☐ Paul **said not to worry** about him. (*but not Paul said me*)

Exercises

48.1 Here are some things that Sarah said to you earlier:



I've never been to the United States.

I don't have any brothers or sisters.

I can't drive.

I don't like fish.

Jane has a very well-paid job.

I'm working tomorrow evening.

Jane is a friend of mine.

~~Dave is lazy.~~

But later Sarah says something different to you. What do you say?

Sarah

- 1 Dave works very hard.
- 2 Let's have fish for dinner.
- 3 I'm going to buy a car.
- 4 Jane is always short of money.
- 5 My sister lives in Paris.
- 6 I think New York is a great place.
- 7 Let's go out tomorrow evening.
- 8 I've never spoken to Jane.

You

But you said he was lazy.

But

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

48.2 Complete the sentences with **say** or **tell** (in the correct form). Use only one word each time.

- 1 Anna said goodbye to me and left.
- 2 us about your holiday. Did you have a nice time?
- 3 Don't just stand there! something!
- 4 I wonder where Sue is. She she would be here at 8 o'clock.
- 5 Dan me that he was bored with his job.
- 6 The doctor that I should rest for at least a week.
- 7 Gary couldn't help me. He me to ask Chris.
- 8 Gary couldn't help me. He to ask Chris.
- 9 Don't anybody what I It's a secret just between us.
- 10 'Did Kate you what happened?' 'No, she didn't anything to me.'

48.3 The following sentences are direct speech:

Don't wait for me if I'm late.

Mind your own business.

Please slow down!

Can you open your bag, please?

Don't worry, Sue.

Hurry up!

Will you marry me?

Do you think you could give me a hand, Tom?

Now choose one of these to complete each of the sentences below. Use **reported speech**.

- 1 Will was taking a long time to get ready, so I told him to hurry up.
- 2 Sarah was driving too fast, so I asked
- 3 Sue was nervous about the situation. I told
- 4 I couldn't move the piano alone, so I
- 5 The security guard looked at me suspiciously and
- 6 The man started asking me personal questions, so I
- 7 Carl was in love with Maria, so he
- 8 I didn't want to delay Helen, so I

Questions 1

A

In questions the subject is usually after the first verb:

subject + verb

verb + subject

Tom	will	→	will	Tom?
you	have	→	have	you?
the house	was	→	was	the house?

- ☐ **Will Tom** be here tomorrow?
- ☐ **Have you** been working hard?
- ☐ When **was the house** built?

The subject is after the *first* verb:

- ☐ **Is Katherine** working today? (*not Is working Katherine*)

B

In *present simple* questions, we use **do/does**:

you live → **do** you **live**?
the film starts → **does** the film **start**?

- ☐ Do you **live** near here?
- ☐ What time **does** the film **start**?

In *past simple* questions, we use **did**:

you sold → **did** you **sell**?
the train stopped → **did** the train **stop**?

- ☐ Did you **sell** your car?
- ☐ Why **did** the train **stop**?

But do not use **do/does/did** if **who/what** etc. is the subject of the sentence. Compare:

who *object*

Emma phoned somebody .

object

Who **did** Emma **phone**?

who *subject*

Somebody phoned Emma.

subject.

Who **phoned** Emma?

In these examples, **who/what** etc. is the *subject*:

- ☐ **Who wants** something to eat? (*not* Who does want)
- ☐ **What happened** to you last night? (*not* What did happen)
- ☐ **How many people came** to the party? (*not* did come)
- ☐ **Which bus goes** to the centre? (*not* does go)

C

In questions beginning **who/what/which/where**, prepositions (**in, for** etc.) usually go at the end:

- ☐ **Where** are you **from**?
- ☐ **Who** do you want to speak **to**?
- ☐ **What** was the weather **like**?
- ☐ **Which** job has Tina applied **for**?

You can use *preposition* + **whom** in formal style:

- ☐ **To whom** do you wish to speak?

D

isn't it ...? / didn't you ...? etc. (negative questions)

We use negative questions especially to show surprise:

- ☐ **Didn't you** hear the doorbell? I rang it three times.

or when we expect the listener to agree with us:

- **'Haven't we** met before?' 'Yes, I think we have.'

Note the meaning of **yes** and **no** in answers to negative questions:

- ☐ ‘Don’t you want to go?’ { ‘Yes.’ (= Yes, I want to go)
‘No.’ (= No, I don’t want to go)

We often use negative questions with **Why ...?**:

- ☐ **Why don't we** eat out tonight? (*not* Why we don't eat)
- ☐ **Why wasn't Emma** at work yesterday? (*not* Why Emma wasn't)

Exercises



JOE

49.1 Ask Joe questions.

- 1 (where / live) Where do you live?
- 2 (born there?)
- 3 (married?)
- 4 (how long?)
- 5 (what / do?)
- 6 (what wife / do?)
- 7 (children?)
- 8 (how old?)

In Manchester.
No, I was born in London.
Yes.
17 years.
I'm a journalist.
She's a doctor.
Yes, two boys.
12 and 15.

49.2 Make questions with **who** or **what**.

- 1 Somebody hit me.
- 2 I hit somebody.
- 3 Somebody paid the bill.
- 4 I'm worried about something.
- 5 Something happened.
- 6 Diane said something.
- 7 This book belongs to somebody.
- 8 Somebody lives in that house.
- 9 I fell over something.
- 10 Something fell off the shelf.
- 11 This word means something.
- 12 Sarah was with somebody.
- 13 I'm looking for something.
- 14 Emma reminds me of somebody.

Who hit you?
Who did you hit?
Who
What
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

49.3 Put the words in brackets in the correct order.

- 1 (when / was / built / this house?) When was this house built?
- 2 (how / cheese / is / made?)
- 3 (why / Sue / working / isn't / today?)
- 4 (what time / arriving / your friends / are?)
- 5 (why / was / cancelled / the meeting?)
- 6 (when / invented / paper / was?)
- 7 (where / your parents / were / born?)
- 8 (why / you / to the party / didn't / come?)
- 9 (how / the accident / did / happen?)
- 10 (why / happy / you / aren't?)
- 11 (how many / speak / can / languages / you?)

49.4 Write negative questions from the words in brackets. In each situation you are surprised.

- 1 A: We won't see Lisa this evening.
B: Why not? (she / not / come / out with us?) Isn't she coming out with us?
- 2 A: I hope we don't meet Luke tonight.
B: Why? (you / not / like / him?)
- 3 A: Don't go and see that film.
B: Why not? (it / not / good?)
- 4 A: I'll have to borrow some money.
B: Why? (you / not / have / any?)

Questions 2 (do you know where ... ? / he asked me where ...)

A

Do you **know where ... ?** / **I don't know why ...** / **Could you tell me what ... ?** etc.

We say: Where **has Tom** gone?

but **Do you know** where **Tom has** gone? (*not has Tom gone*)

When the question (**Where has Tom gone?**) is part of a longer sentence (**Do you know ... ?** / **I don't know ...** / **Can you tell me ... ?** etc.), the word order changes. We say:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ What time is it ? | but Do you know what time it is ? |
| ☐ Who are those people ? | I don't know who those people are . |
| ☐ Where can I find Louise? | Can you tell me where I can find Louise? |
| ☐ How much will it cost? | Do you have any idea how much it will cost? |

Be careful with **do/does/did** questions. We say:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ What time does the film start ? | but Do you know what time the film starts ? |
| | (<i>not does the film start</i>) |
| ☐ What do you mean ? | Please explain what you mean . |
| ☐ Why did she leave early? | I wonder why she left early. |

Use **if** or **whether** where there is no other question word (**what, why** etc.):

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Did anybody see you? | but I don't know if anybody saw me. |
| | or ... whether anybody saw me. |

B

He asked me where ...

The same changes in word order happen in questions in reported speech. Compare:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ <i>direct</i> | The police officer said to us 'Where are you going ?' |
| <i>reported</i> | The police officer asked us where we were going . |
| ☐ <i>direct</i> | Clare asked 'What time do the shops close ?' |
| <i>reported</i> | Clare wanted to know what time the shops closed . |

In reported speech the verb usually changes to the past (**were, closed** etc.). See Unit 47.

Study these examples. You had a job interview and the interviewer asked you these questions:



Are you willing to travel?

What do you do in your spare time?

How long have you been working in your present job?

Why did you apply for the job?

Can you speak any other languages?

Do you have a driving licence?

Later you tell a friend what the interviewer asked you. You use *reported speech*:

- ☐ She asked if (or whether) **I was** willing to travel.
- ☐ She wanted to know what **I did** in my spare time.
- ☐ She asked how long **I had been working** in my present job.
- ☐ She asked why **I had applied** for the job. or ... why **I applied** ...
- ☐ She wanted to know if (or whether) **I could** speak any other languages.
- ☐ She asked if (or whether) **I had** a driving licence.

Exercises

50.1 Which is right? Tick (✓) the correct alternative.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 a Do you know what time the film starts? ✓
b Do you know what time does the film start?
c Do you know what time starts the film? | 5 a Why you didn't phone me yesterday?
b Why didn't you phone me yesterday?
c Why you not phoned me yesterday? |
| 2 a Why Amy does get up so early every day?
b Why Amy gets up so early every day?
c Why does Amy get up so early every day? | 6 a Do you know where does Helen work?
b Do you know where Helen does work?
c Do you know where Helen works? |
| 3 a I want to know what this word means.
b I want to know what does this word mean.
c I want to know what means this word. | 7 a How much it costs to park here?
b How much does it cost to park here?
c How much it does cost to park here? |
| 4 a I can't remember where did I park the car.
b I can't remember where I parked the car.
c I can't remember where I did park the car. | 8 a Tell me what you want.
b Tell me what you do want.
c Tell me what do you want. |

50.2 Put the words in the correct order.

- (it / you / what time / know / is) Do you know what time it is ..?
- (is / to the airport / far / it) How ..?
- (wonder / is / how / old / Tom) I ..?
- (they / married / been / have) How long ..?
- (they / married / how long / been / have / know)
Do you ..?
- (tell / the station / you / me / is / where)
Could ..?
- (in the accident / injured / anyone / don't / whether / know / was)
I ..?
- (what / tomorrow / know / time / will / arrive / you / you)
Do ..?

50.3 You were visiting London. You met a lot of people who asked you a lot of questions:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1  Where are you from? | 5  Where are you staying? |
| 2  How long have you been in London? | 6  How long are you going to stay? |
| 3  Have you been to London before? | 7  Do you think London is expensive? |
| 4  Do you like London? | 8  Why did you come to London? |

Now you tell a friend what people asked you. Use reported speech.

- He asked me where I was from. ..
- She asked me ..
- They ..
-
-
-
-
-

Auxiliary verbs (have/do/can etc.) I think so / I hope so etc.

A In these sentences there is an *auxiliary* verb and a *main* verb:

	<i>auxiliary</i>	<i>main</i>	
I	have	lost	my keys.
She	can't	come	to the party.
The hotel	was	built	ten years ago.
Why	do you	want	to go home?

In these examples **have/can't/was/do** are *auxiliary* (= helping) verbs.

You can use an auxiliary verb when you don't want to repeat something:

- ☐ 'Have you locked the door?' 'Yes, I **have**.' (= I have *locked the door*)
- ☐ Gary wasn't working, but Laura **was**. (= Laura *was working*)
- ☐ Jessica could lend me the money, but she **won't**. (= she *won't lend me the money*)

We use **do/does/did** for the present and past simple:

- ☐ 'Do you like onions?' 'Yes, I **do**.' (= I *like onions*)
- ☐ 'Does Simon live in London?' 'He **did**, but he **doesn't** any more.'

You can use auxiliary verbs to deny what somebody says (= say it is not true):

- ☐ 'You're sitting in my place.' 'No, I **'m not**.' (= I'm *not sitting in your place*)
- ☐ 'You didn't lock the door before you left.' 'Yes, I **did**.' (= I *locked the door*)

B We use **have you?** / **isn't she?** / **are they?** etc. to show that we are interested in what somebody has said, or to show surprise:

- ☐ 'I've just seen Steven.' 'Oh, **have you?** How is he?'
- ☐ 'Lisa isn't very well today.' '**Isn't she?** What's wrong with her?'
- ☐ 'It rained every day during our holiday.' '**Did it?** What a shame!'
- ☐ 'James and Tanya are getting married.' '**Are they?** Really?'

C We use auxiliary verbs with **so** and **neither**:

- ☐ 'I'm tired.' '**So am I**.' (= I'm tired too)
- ☐ 'I never read newspapers.' '**Neither do I**.' (= I never read newspapers either)
- ☐ Sarah can't drive and **neither can Mark**.

Note the word order after **so** and **neither** (verb before subject):

- ☐ I passed the exam and **so did Paul**. (*not so Paul did*)

Instead of **neither**, you can use **nor**. You can also use **not ... either**:

- ☐ 'I don't know.' '**Neither do I**.' or '**Nor do I**.' or '**I don't either**.'

D I think so / I suppose so etc.

You can say **I think so** / **I suppose so** etc. when we don't want to repeat something:

- ☐ 'Are those people Korean?' '**I think so**.' (= I think *they are Korean*)
- ☐ 'Is Kate working tomorrow?' '**I suppose so**.' (= I suppose *she is working tomorrow*)
- ☐ 'Will you be at home this evening?' '**I expect so**.' (= I expect *I'll be at home ...*)

In the same way we say: **I hope so**, **I guess so** and **I'm afraid so**.

The usual negative forms are:

- I think so / I expect so → I **don't think so** / I **don't expect so**
- I hope so / I'm afraid so → I **hope not** / I'm **afraid not**
- I guess so / I suppose so → I **guess not** / I **suppose not**

- ☐ 'Is that woman American?' '**I think so. / I don't think so.**'
- ☐ 'Do you think it will rain?' '**I hope so. / I hope not.**' (*not I don't hope so*)

Exercises

51.1 Complete each sentence with an auxiliary verb (**do/was/could/might** etc.). Sometimes the verb must be negative (**don't/wasn't** etc.).

- 1 I wasn't tired, but my friends were.
- 2 I like hot weather, but Ann
- 3 'Is Andy here?' 'He five minutes ago, but I think he's gone home now.'
- 4 I haven't travelled much, but Gary
- 5 Lisa said she might come and see us tomorrow, but I don't think she
- 6 I don't know whether to apply for the job or not. Do you think I?
- 7 'Please don't tell anybody what happened.' 'Don't worry. I'
- 8 'You never listen to me.' 'Yes, I!'
- 9 I usually work on Saturdays, but last Saturday I
- 10 'Do you think it's going to rain?' 'It Take an umbrella in case.'
- 11 'Are you and Chris going to the party?' 'I, but Chris'
- 12 'Please help me.' 'I'm sorry. I if I, but I'

51.2 You never agree with Amy. Answer in the way shown.

- 1  I'm hungry.
- 2 I don't like driving.
- 3 I like football.
- 4 I didn't enjoy the film.
- 5 I'm not tired.
- 6 I thought the exam was easy.

Are you? I'm not.
Don't you? I do.

YOU

51.3 Tina tells you something. If the same is true for you, answer with **So ...** or **Neither ...** (as in the first example). Otherwise, ask Tina questions (as in the second example).

- 1  I'm not tired.
- 2 I work hard.
- 3 I watched TV last night.
- 4 I won't be at home tomorrow.
- 5 I like reading.
- 6 I'd like to live somewhere else.
- 7 I can't go out tonight.
- 8 I'm looking forward to the weekend.

Neither am I.
Do you? What do you do?

YOU

51.4 What do you say to Sam? Use **I think so**, **I hope not** etc.

1 (You don't like rain.) SAM: Is it going to rain? YOU: <u>I hope not.</u> (hope)	5 (Jane has lived in Italy for many years.) SAM: Does Jane speak Italian? YOU: (suppose)
2 (You need more money.) SAM: Do you think you'll get a pay rise? YOU: (hope)	6 (You have to leave Sam's party early.) SAM: Do you have to leave already? YOU: (afraid)
3 (You're going to a party. You can't stand John.) SAM: Will John be at the party? YOU: (hope)	7 (You're not sure what time the film begins, but it's probably 7.30.) SAM: What time is the film? 7.30? YOU: (think)
4 (You're not sure whether Amy is married, but she probably isn't.) SAM: Is Amy married? YOU: (think)	8 (You are the receptionist at a hotel. The hotel is full.) SAM: Do you have a room for tonight? YOU: (afraid)

Question tags (do you? isn't it? etc.)

A Study these examples:

You haven't seen Lisa today, **have you?**

No, I haven't.



It was a good film, **wasn't it?**

Yes, it was great.



Have you? and **wasn't it?** are *question tags*. These are mini-questions that you can put on the end of a sentence.

In question tags, we use an auxiliary verb (**have/was/will** etc.).

We use **do/does/did** for the present and past simple (see Unit 51):

- ☐ 'Karen plays the piano, **doesn't** she?' 'Well, yes, but not very well.'
- ☐ 'You didn't lock the door, **did** you?' 'No, I forgot.'

B Normally we use a *negative* question tag after a *positive* sentence:

positive sentence + *negative tag*
 Kate **will** be here soon, **won't she?**
 There **was** a lot of traffic, **wasn't there?**
 Joe **should** pass the exam, **shouldn't he?**

... and a *positive* question tag after a *negative* sentence:

negative sentence + *positive tag*
 Kate **won't** be late, **will she?**
 They **don't** like us, **do they?**
 You **haven't** eaten yet, **have you?**

Notice the meaning of **yes** and **no** in answer to a negative sentence:

- ☐ 'You're **not** going out this morning, **are you?**' { 'Yes.' (= Yes, I am going out)
 'No.' (= No, I am not going out)

C The meaning of a question tag depends on how you say it. If your voice goes *down*, you are not really asking a question. You expect the listener to agree with you:

- ☐ 'It's a nice day, **isn't it?**' 'Yes, beautiful.'
- ☐ 'Paul doesn't look well today, **does he?**' 'No, he looks very tired.'
- ☐ 'Lisa's very funny. She's got a great sense of humour, **hasn't she?**' 'Yes, she has.'

But if the voice goes *up*, it is a real question:

- ☐ 'You haven't seen Kate today, **have you?**' 'No, I haven't.'
 (= Have you seen Kate today?)

You can use a *negative sentence* + *positive tag* to ask for things or information, or to ask somebody to do something. The voice goes *up* at the end of the tag:

- ☐ 'You couldn't do me a favour, **could you?**' 'It depends what it is.'
- ☐ 'You don't know where Karen is, **do you?**' 'Sorry, I have no idea.'

D After **Let's ...** (= **Let us**) the question tag is **shall we?**

- ☐ **Let's** go for a walk, **shall we?** (the voice goes *up*)

After **Don't ...**, the question tag is **will you?**

- ☐ **Don't** be late, **will you?** (the voice goes *down*)

After **I'm ...**, the negative question tag is **aren't I?** (= am I not?):

- ☐ 'I'm right, **aren't I?**' 'Yes, you are.'

Exercises

52.1 Complete these sentences with a question tag.

- | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|-------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1 | Kate won't be late, | <i>will she</i> | ? | No, she's never late. |
| 2 | You're tired, | <i>aren't you</i> | ? | Yes, a little. |
| 3 | You travel a lot, | | ? | Yes, I love travelling. |
| 4 | You weren't listening, | | ? | Yes, I was! |
| 5 | Sarah doesn't know Ann, | | ? | No, they've never met. |
| 6 | Jack's on holiday, | | ? | Yes, he's in Australia. |
| 7 | It didn't take long to get here, | | ? | No, just ten minutes. |
| 8 | You can speak German, | | ? | Yes, but not fluently. |
| 9 | They won't mind if I take a picture, | | ? | No, of course they won't. |
| 10 | There are a lot of people here, | | ? | Yes, more than I expected. |
| 11 | Let's go and have coffee, | | ? | Yes, let's do that. |
| 12 | This isn't very interesting | | ? | No, not really. |
| 13 | I'm too impatient | | ? | Yes, you are sometimes. |
| 14 | You wouldn't tell anyone, | | ? | No, of course not. |
| 15 | Helen has lived here a long time, | | ? | Yes, 20 years. |
| 16 | I shouldn't have lost my temper, | | ? | No, but that's all right. |
| 17 | He'd never met her before, | | ? | No, that was the first time. |
| 18 | Don't forget to call me, | | ? | No, I won't forget. |

52.2 In these situations you expect your friend to agree with you. Use a question tag in your sentences.

- You look out of the window. The sky is blue and the sun is shining. You say to your friend: (beautiful day) *It's a beautiful day, isn't it?*
- You're with a friend outside a restaurant. You're looking at the prices, which are very high. You say: (expensive) It.....
- You and a colleague have just finished a training course. You really enjoyed it. You say to your colleague: (great) The course
- Your friend's hair is much shorter than when you last met. You say to her/him: (have / your hair / cut) You
- You're listening to a woman singing. You like her voice very much. You say to your friend: (a good voice) She
- You're trying on a jacket in a shop. You look in the mirror and you don't like what you see. You say to your friend: (not / look / right) It
- You and a friend are walking over a small wooden bridge. The bridge is old and some parts are broken. You say: (not / very safe) This bridge

52.3 In these situations you are asking for information, asking people to do things etc.

- You need a pen. Perhaps Jane has one. Ask her.
Jane, you don't have a pen I could borrow, do you?
- You have to move a heavy table. You want Joe to help you with it. Ask him.
Joe, you
- You're looking for Sarah. Perhaps Lisa knows where she is. Ask her.
Lisa, you
- You want to borrow a tennis racket. Perhaps Helen has one. Ask her.
Helen,
- Anna has a car and you need a lift to the station. Perhaps she'll take you. Ask her.
Anna,
- You're looking for your keys. Perhaps Robert has seen them. Ask him.
Robert,