

74 Reporting simple questions

Simple questions can be answered with “yes” and “no.” English uses “if” and “whether” to report simple questions.

 **New language** “if” and “whether”

Aa Vocabulary Verb + preposition collocations

 **New skill** Reporting simple questions

74.1 KEY LANGUAGE “IF” AND “WHETHER”

If the answer to a question in direct speech is “yes” or “no,” use “if” or “whether” to report the question. “Whether” is more formal than “if.”



Direct question can be answered with “yes” or “no.”

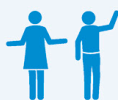
Are you meeting your sales targets?

My boss asked me **if I was** meeting my sales targets.

Reported question uses “if” or “whether.”



74.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES “IF” AND “WHETHER”



Will you be at the meeting on Monday?



Kara asked **whether I would** be at the meeting on Monday.

In reported questions with “if” and “whether,” you can leave out the object after “asked.”



Do you want to stay for dinner?

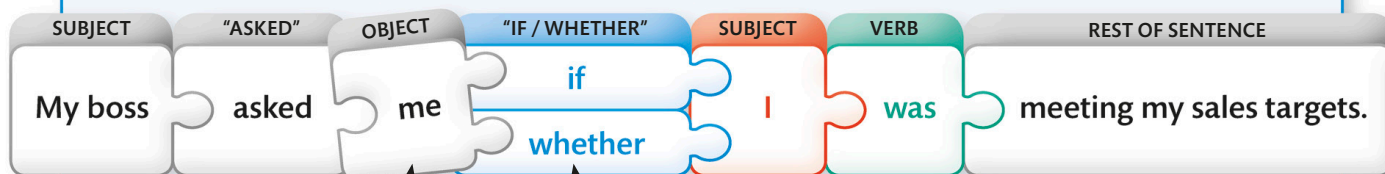


Ian asked me **if we wanted** to stay for dinner.

Reported questions with “if” and “whether” leave out the auxiliary verb “do.”



74.3 HOW TO FORM REPORTED QUESTIONS WITH “IF” AND “WHETHER”



You can leave the object out.

“If” and “whether” mean the same thing, but “whether” is more formal.



74.4 REWRITE THE DIRECT QUESTIONS AS REPORTED QUESTIONS, FILLING IN THE GAPS

Are you going to be home late?

He asked me if I was going to be home late.

① Have you been waiting long?

She asked us _____

② Do they have the figures ready?

He asked _____

③ Did you go to the meeting?

She asked us _____

④ Are you working late again?

I asked him _____

⑤ Do you want a glass of water?

He asked you _____

⑥ Will you take the early flight?

She asked me _____

⑦ Did Eva meet you at the airport?

She asked us _____



74.5 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



Uma calls Jack to tell him how her business meeting went.

Uma's meeting didn't go well.

True ☐ False ☒ Not given ☐

① Uma doesn't like her current job.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

② Uma hasn't met her sales targets.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

③ Uma's boss wants to improve sales.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

④ Uma has sold products in Japan.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

⑤ Uma will work with the sales team.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

⑥ Uma's boss offered her more money.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐

⑦ Uma expected to be offered a new job.

True ☐ False ☐ Not given ☐



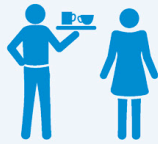
74.6 USE THE CHART TO CREATE 8 CORRECT SENTENCES AND SAY THEM OUT LOUD

She asked me if I knew what time it was.

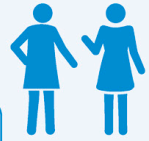


74.7 KEY LANGUAGE REPORTING QUESTIONS WITH "OR"

You can also use "if" or "whether" to report questions that use "or" in direct speech.



Does Jo **want** tea **or** coffee?



Jo, Tom asked me **if** you **wanted** tea **or** coffee.

Verb moves back to past tense.



74.8 FURTHER EXAMPLES REPORTING QUESTIONS WITH "OR"



Do you **want** to go by car **or** by train?



She asked **whether** we **wanted** to go by car **or** by train.



Do you **prefer** books **or** movies?



Riku asked me **if** I **preferred** books **or** movies.



74.9 MATCH THE PICTURES TO THE CORRECT SENTENCES



1



2



3



4



5



He asked me if I played badminton or tennis.

We asked if they'd like ice cream or cake.

He asked her whether she preferred cycling or walking.

She asked if I wanted to cook inside or outside.

I asked if I should take flowers or wine to the party.

He asked whether they'd rather be rich or famous.





74.10 READ THE ARTICLE AND WRITE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS AS FULL SENTENCES

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BUSINESS TODAY

"ALL TOO EASY"

In our exclusive report, former businessman Clive Benson, who was sentenced to five years in jail for money laundering, talks to Kamil Hashmi.

"I always dreamed of being seriously rich. I wanted to provide for my family and I made a bad decision. I invested in a company without asking enough questions. Maybe I didn't want to know the answers. It was all too easy.

"The money started to pour into my bank account and everything was great. Then one day, I was arrested and accused of money laundering. I couldn't fight against it, and now I'm in prison.



"I used to sleep in a huge bed and eat in the best restaurants. Now I'm confined to a cell. There's no point in complaining about the situation. Who would I complain to? Now I dream about being with my family again. I hope I can count on them to wait for me and forgive me."

Why did Clive want to be rich?

He wanted to provide for his family.

1 What was the bad decision that Clive made?

2 What started to pour into his bank account?

3 What was he accused of?

4 What does he say there's no point in doing?

5 What does he dream about?

6 What does he hope his family will do?

Aa

74.11 CROSS OUT THE INCORRECT WORDS IN EACH SENTENCE TO FORM COLLOCATIONS OF VERBS WITH PREPOSITIONS

I invested money **in** / ~~on~~ / ~~for~~ my new business.

1 It's great to know I can count **off** / **in** / **on** you.

2 I want to provide **to** / **for** / **on** my children.

3 He always dreamed **of** / **on** / **for** being famous.

4 The water poured **to** / **into** / **in** the bucket.

5 They were accused **of** / **on** / **in** stealing a car.

6 We can't fight **of** / **with** / **against** their decision.

7 I'll be ready soon. Please wait **on** / **for** / **to** me.



74 CHECKLIST

⚙️ "If" and "whether" ☐

Aa Verb + preposition collocations ☐

🧩 Reporting simple questions ☐