

# Factsheet - Level 2

## Question Mark



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The main function of a question mark is to indicate a question or query.

1. Use a question mark at the end of all direct questions:
  - What is your name?
  - How much money did you transfer?
  - Did you send euro pounds?
2. Use a question mark after a tag question:
  - You're French, aren't you?
  - Snow isn't green, is it?
  - He should go and see a doctor, shouldn't he?
3. Don't forget to use a question mark at the end of a sentence that really is a direct question:
  - How else would I get there, after all?
  - What if I said to you, "I don't love you any more"?
  - "Who knows when I'll die?", he asked rhetorically.
4. In very **informal** writing (personal letter or email), people sometimes use a question mark to turn a statement into a question:
  - See you at 9 pm?

In the same situation, they may use two or three question marks together to show that they are not sure about something:

- I think you said it would cost £10???
5. Do **not** use a question mark after an indirect or reported question:
    - The teacher asked them what their names were. (*What are your names?*)
    - John asked Mary if she loved him. (*Do you love me?*)
    - I'm wondering if she's coming. (*Is she coming?*)

6. Many polite requests or instructions are made in the form of a question. But because they are not really questions, they do **not** take a question mark:
- Could you please send me your catalogue.
  - Would all first-class and business-class passengers now start boarding.
7. Be careful with titles and abbreviations when question marks are involved:
- "Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?" was a play before it was a film.
  - *Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?* was a play before it was a film.
  - Have you seen the film "Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?"?
  - Have you seen the film *Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf??*
  - Have you ever been to L.A.?

Note that there should be **no** space immediately before a question mark.

**For more information and games about these punctuation marks go to ....**

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