

12.2 Reported questions

1 When we talk about a **question someone else has asked**, we use **reported questions**. We **change the verb tense**, e.g. *do – did, did – had done, will – would*.

2 **Reported questions** are **not real direct questions**, so they follow **normal sentence word order**.

1 'Where **do** you usually **watch** TV?' He asked me where I usually **watched** TV.

2 'When **is** she **coming** back?' They asked when she **was coming** back.

3 We can use the **reporting verb** *asked* **with** or **without an object**. We can also use the **phrase** *wanted to know*.

1 'How **does** he **do** that?' She wanted to know how **he did** it.

2 'How long **have** you **been** here?' He wanted to know how long **he'd been** there?

12.2 Reported questions

1 When we **report** someone else's *yes/no* **questions**, we use *if* or *whether*.









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| 1 'Do you like the advert?' | He wanted to know if I liked the advert. |
| 2 'Is he going to retire soon?' | She asked whether he was going to retire soon. |
| 3 'Have you seen the new logo?' | We asked them if they had seen the new logo. |

2 If the **main verb** in the question is *be*, we sometimes put *be* **at the end** of the **reported question**, especially in **short questions** with *be*.

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| 1 'Where is he?' | She asked where he was . |
| 2 'What is the problem?' | We wanted to know what the problem was . |

12.2 Reported questions

1 Match the questions to their reported forms in each pair.

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| 1 'What do you eat for lunch?' |  | She asked what I had eaten for lunch. |
| 2 'What did you eat for lunch?' |  | She asked what I ate for lunch. |
| 3 'Where are you staying?' |  | He wanted to know where I was staying. |
| 4 'Where did you stay?' |  | He wanted to know where I'd stayed. |
| 5 'Do you want to leave?' |  | I wanted to know why he wanted to leave. |
| 6 'Why do you want to leave?' |  | I wanted to know whether he wanted to leave. |
| 7 'Did you have coffee?' |  | He asked where she'd had coffee. |
| 8 'Where did you have coffee?' |  | He asked if she'd had coffee. |