ANTE TODO There are three basic ways to ask questions in Spanish. Can you guess what they are by looking at the photos and photo captions on this page?



One way to form a question is to raise the pitch of your voice at the end of a declarative sentence. When writing any question in Spanish, be sure to use an upside down question mark (¿) at the beginning and a regular question mark (?) at the end of the sentence.

Statement

Ustedes trabajan los sábados. You work on Saturdays.

Miguel busca un mapa.

Miguel is looking for a map.

Question

¿Ustedes trabajan los sábados? Do you work on Saturdays?

¿Miguel busca un mapa?

Is Miguel looking for a map?

You can also form a question by inverting the order of the subject and the verb of a declarative statement. The subject may even be placed at the end of the sentence.

Statement

SUBJECT VERB

Ustedes trabajan los sábados.

You work on Saturdays.

SUBJECT VERB

Carlota regresa a las seis.

Carlota returns at six.

Question

VERB SUBJECT

¿Trabajan ustedes los sábados?

Do you work on Saturdays?

VERB SUBJECT

¿Regresa a las seis Carlota?

Does Carlota return at six?

Questions can also be formed by adding the tags ¿no? or ¿verdad? at the end of a statement.

Statement

Ustedes trabajan los sábados. You work on Saturdays.

Carlota regresa a las seis. Carlota returns at six.

Question

Ustedes trabajan los sábados, ¿no? You work on Saturdays, don't you?

Carlota regresa a las seis, ¿verdad? Carlota returns at six, right?

Question words

Interrogative words

¿Adónde? ¿De dónde? From where? Where (to)? ¿Cómo? ¿Dónde? How? Where? ¿Cuál?, ¿Cuáles? Which?; Which one(s)? ¿Por qué? Why? ¿Cuándo? When? ¿Qué? What?; Which? ¿Cuánto/a? ¿Quién? How much? Who? ¿Quiénes? Who (plural)? ¿Cuántos/as? How many?

To ask a question that requires more than a yes or no answer, use an interrogative word.

¿**Cuál** de ellos estudia en la biblioteca? Which of them studies in the library?

¿**Cuántos** estudiantes hablan español? How many students speak Spanish?

¿**Dónde** trabaja Ricardo? Where does Ricardo work?

¿**Qué** clases tomas? What classes are you taking? ¿**Adónde** caminamos? Where are we walking?

¿**Por qué** necesitas hablar con ella? Why do you need to talk to her?

¿**Quién** enseña la clase de arte? Who teaches the art class?

¿**Cuánta** tarea hay? How much homework is there?

When pronouncing this type of question, the pitch of your voice falls at the end of the sentence.

¿**Cómo** llegas a clase? How do you get to class?



Notice the difference between ¿por qué?, which is written as two words and has an accent, and porque, which is written as one word without an accent.

¿**Por qué** estudias español? Why do you study Spanish?

¡**Porque** es divertido! *Because it's fun!*

► In Spanish no can mean both no and not. Therefore, when answering a yes/no question in the negative, you need to use no twice.

¿Caminan a la universidad? Do you walk to the university?

No, no caminamos a la universidad. No, we do not walk to the university.



Make questions out of these statements. Use intonation in column 1 and the tag ¿no? in column 2. The first item has been done for you.

Statement	Intonation	Tag Questions
1. Hablas inglés.	¿Hablas inglés?	Hablas inglés, ¿no?
2. Trabajamos mañana.		
3. Ustedes desean bailar.		
4. Raúl estudia mucho.		
5. Enseño a las nueve.		
6. Luz mira la televisión.		