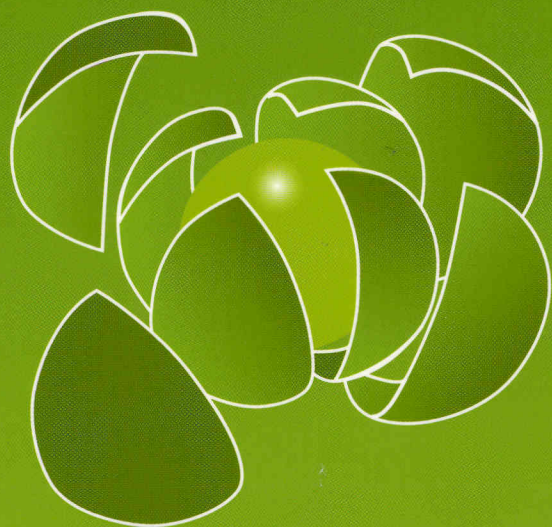
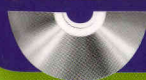


Michael Swan • Catherine Walter

# Oxford English Grammar Course



**Advanced**



+ 'Pronunciation for grammar' CD-ROM

with answers

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# Section 1 basic sentence types

The basic subject-verb-object structure of simple affirmative sentences should be well known at this level. Rules for the formation of questions, negatives, imperatives and exclamations are revised briefly in this section, and some more advanced points introduced. More complex types of spoken and written sentence structure are covered in other parts of the book: see the Table of Contents or the Index for details.

## questions: revise the basics



**word order** In most questions, we put an **auxiliary verb before the subject** – not the whole verb, even with long subjects.

*Are Annie and the rest of the family **coming** tomorrow?* (NOT *Are coming Annie ...?*)

*Can all of the team **be** here at ten o'clock?*

If there is no other auxiliary verb, we use **do** (+ infinitive without *to*).

*What **does** 'hyperactive' mean?* (NOT *What means 'hyperactive'?*)

Note that *do* may come twice in questions: once as an auxiliary and once as a main verb.

*What **does** your brother **do**?*

**question-word subjects** When *who* and *what* are **subjects**, we normally make questions without *do*. Compare:

*'Who<sup>SUBJ</sup> said that?' 'Lucy<sup>SUBJ</sup> said that.'* (NOT *'Who did say that?'*)

*'Who<sup>OBJ</sup> did you invite?' 'I invited Oliver<sup>OBJ</sup>.'*

*'What<sup>SUBJ</sup> happened?' 'Something strange<sup>SUBJ</sup> happened.'* (NOT *'What did happen?'*)

*'What<sup>OBJ</sup> did he say?' 'He said something strange<sup>OBJ</sup>.'*

The same thing happens when subjects **begin with** question-words *which*, *what*, *whose*, *what sort of* or *how much/many*.

*Which team won?* (NOT *Which team did win?*)

*What country won the last World Cup?*

*How many students live here?* (Compare *How many students<sup>OBJ</sup> did you<sup>SUBJ</sup> invite?*)

*Whose dog dug up my flowers?*

However, *do* can be used with question-word subjects for special emphasis.

*'Ollie didn't get the job.' 'Really? So who **did** get it?'*

### 1 Correct the mistakes or write 'Correct'.

- ▶ How you pronounce 'thorough'? *do you* .....
- ▶ What happened? *Correct.* .....
- 1 What time the train leaves? .....
- 2 What means 'understudy'? .....
- 3 Why she is crying? .....
- 4 Has the man from the Export Department telephoned? .....
- 5 What I must to do now? .....
- 6 Does the 9.30 train for Bristol leave from platform 7? .....
- 7 The postman has been? .....
- 8 Who does live next door? .....
- 9 Which car costs more? .....
- 10 What sort of music does help you to relax? .....

**2 Make questions. Ask about the words in italics.**

- ▶ (a) Mark loves Emma. (b) Mark loves *Emma*.  
..... (a) *Who loves Emma?* (b) *Who does Mark love?*
- 1 (a) Rob bought *a jacket*. (b) *Rob* bought a jacket.  
.....
- 2 (a) *Oliver* lost his credit card. (b) Oliver lost *his credit card*.  
.....
- 3 (a) Kara has broken *her leg*. (b) *Kara* has broken her leg.  
.....
- 4 (a) *This stuff* kills flies. (b) This stuff kills *flies*.  
.....
- 5 (a) *Mike* caught the first plane. (b) Mike caught *the first* plane.  
.....
- 6 (a) *His brother* collects Chinese paintings. (b) His brother collects *Chinese* paintings.  
.....
- 7 (a) *Her* child broke our window. (b) Her child broke *our* window.  
.....

**Prepositions often come at the end** of questions, especially in informal speech and writing.

*Who are you waiting for?*    *What's that book about?*

It is possible to begin with the preposition, but this is generally very formal.

*With whom did Mozart collaborate?*    *On what do blue whales feed?*

This order is unusual or impossible in informal speech.

NOT *After whose children are you looking?*

Two-word questions ending with a preposition are common in conversation.

'Rose is getting married.' *Who to?*    *I've been thinking.* *What about?*

**3 Write questions for these answers, beginning Who or What.**

- ▶ 'I went with Alex.' ..... *'Who did you go with?'*
- 1 'The article's about microbiology.' .....
- 2 'She gave it to her sister.' .....
- 3 'I was talking to Emma.' .....
- 4 'You can open it with this.' .....
- 5 'The letter was from my bank manager.' .....
- 6 'She hit me with her shoe.' .....
- 7 'My brother works for Globe Advertising.' .....
- 8 'I'm thinking about life.' .....

**4 Complete the conversations with two-word questions.**

- ▶ 'I'm writing a novel.' ..... *'What about?'* ..... 'Love, life, art and death.'
- 1 'We're moving.' ..... 'North Wales.'
- 2 'I've mended the printer.' ..... 'Superglue.'
- 3 'I've bought a present.' ..... 'Myself.'
- 4 'Pete's in love again.' ..... 'His piano teacher.'
- 5 'I managed to stop the baby crying.' ..... 'Chocolate.'
- 6 'We're going to France for a week.' ..... 'Pat and Julie.'
- 7 'Sophie's got engaged.' ..... 'To an old school friend.'

**Note:** A few prepositions do not normally come at the end of sentences (see page 195).

*During* whose lesson did you fall asleep? (NOT ~~Whose lesson~~ ... *during*?)



# negatives: revise the basics

**structure** To make **negative** verb forms, we put **not** or **n't** after an **auxiliary verb** or **be**. If there is **no other auxiliary**, we use **do**. In standard English, we don't normally use *not* or *do* with negative words like *never*, *hardly*, *nothing*. (But this is common in many dialects.)

*The Minister **has not** made a decision. She **couldn't** swim. It **wasn't** raining. I **don't** care. He **never** says much. (NOT *He does never say much.* OR *He doesn't never say much.*) I **hardly** noticed the interruption. (NOT *I didn't hardly notice ...*) We **saw nothing**. (NOT *We didn't see nothing.*)*

## 1 Correct the mistakes or write 'Correct'.

- ▶ You ~~not~~ understood. *did not understand*
- ▶ It ~~hardly~~ matters. *Correct*
- 1 George never is in the office. ....
- 2 There wasn't nothing that I could do. ....
- 3 Fred not likes travelling. ....
- 4 The rooms have not been cleaned today. ....
- 5 Nothing didn't happen. ....
- 6 I do never drive at night. ....
- 7 We hardly didn't have time to think. ....
- 8 You don't must pay now. ....

## 2 GRAMMAR IN TEXTS. Put the letters of the expressions from the box into the texts.

A cannot be    B can't afford    C did not pay    D doesn't have    E doesn't open    F doesn't talk  
G no longer    H not be allowed    I not be shown    J not been named    K not been paid  
L nothing can justify    M wouldn't have to

### A police anti-terrorism TV advertisement has been banned.

The advertisement asked people to look out for suspicious behaviour by their neighbours, describing a man who 1... to people, 2... his curtains, and 3... a bank card but pays for things in cash. The authority that regulates TV advertising banned the advertisement because this could offend or throw suspicion on innocent people, and ruled that the ad should 4... again.

**A 37-year-old Swedish motorist**, who has 5..., was caught driving his Mercedes sports car at 290km/h in Switzerland, and could be given a world-record speeding fine of SFr1.08m. Under Swiss law, the level of fine is determined by the wealth of the driver and the speed recorded. A local police spokesman said that "6 ... a speed of 290km/h. The car 7... properly controlled. It must have taken 500m to stop."

### A travel company has collapsed, leaving over 1,000 customers stuck in Spain.

One holidaymaker said that he and his family had paid the company for an all-inclusive hotel on the Costa Brava, but they have now been asked to pay again for the whole week or leave. 'Well, we just 8 ... that,' he said. 'We paid everything in advance so we 9 ... spend any money while we're away.' Another group in the resort of Lloret de Mar were notified as they were sunbathing that the all-inclusive deal they had paid for was 10 ... valid. One woman said her family of five was presented with a bill of 2,700 euros – more than the original cost of their holiday – and told they if they 11 ... it they would 12 ... any more food or drink. Hoteliers are also suffering; one said he had 100 rooms currently booked through the travel company, but had 13 ... for any of them. •

**Note: do and not with negative words** *Do* is possible with a negative for emphasis.

*'I've split up with my girlfriend.' 'I'm not surprised. I never did like her.'*

And *not* can **contradict** the meaning of another negative word.

*I didn't say **nothing** – I said 'Hello'.*



# not and no

**structures with not** We use **not** to make a word, expression or clause negative.

*Not surprisingly, she failed her driving test.* (NOT ~~No surprisingly~~ ...)  
*I've worked in Scotland, but not in Ireland.* (NOT ... ~~but no in Ireland~~.)  
*She was talking to Andy, not you.* (NOT ... ~~no you~~.) I do **not** agree.

*Not* can refer to different parts of a sentence. However, in a clause with a verb, *not* normally goes with the verb, whatever the exact meaning.

*Peter **didn't** study art at Cambridge.* (NOT ~~Not Peter studied art at Cambridge~~. OR ~~Peter studied not art at Cambridge~~. OR ~~Peter studied art not at Cambridge~~.)

**meaning of no** We use **no** with a **noun** or **-ing form** to mean 'not any' or 'not a/an'.

*No pilots went on strike.* (= 'There weren't any pilots on strike.')  
*We've got no plans for the holiday.* (= '... not any plans ...')  
*I know you're tired, but that's no reason to be rude.* (= '... not a reason.')  
**NO PARKING AT WEEKENDS.**

## 1 Correct (✓) or not (X)?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ▶ Not Bill phoned, but Pete. X           | 4 We play tennis, but not on Sundays. ... |
| ▶ I have no idea where Susie is. ✓       | 5 No trains are running today. ...        |
| 1 I speak Spanish, but no very well. ... | 6 The trains are not running today. ...   |
| 2 There are no messages for you. ...     | 7 I'm sorry, Mary's no in today. ...      |
| 3 We play tennis not on Sundays. ...     | 8 Not this street is the right one. ...   |

## 2 Complete the sentences with words from the box, and choose *not* or *no*.

Use a dictionary if necessary.

attend cash describe entrance excuse humour intend office ✓ repaired revise worry

- ▶ We speak Spanish in the *office* ....., but *no* / *(not)* at home.
- 1 There's *no* / *not* parking in front of the station .....
  - 2 She was *no* / *not* able to ..... her attacker.
  - 3 There's *no* / *not* ..... for that sort of behaviour.
  - 4 They ..... my watch, but *no* / *not* properly.
  - 5 We've got *no* / *not* time to ..... the schedule now.
  - 6 I can ..... a meeting, but *no* / *not* tonight.
  - 7 The receptionist obviously did *no* / *not* ..... to be helpful.
  - 8 'Do you ..... a lot?' 'No / Not usually.'
  - 9 She's a woman with *no* / *not* sense of .....
  - 10 I always pay ..... I've got *no* / *not* credit cards.

## NOTES

**not** The exact reference of *not* can be shown in speech by STRESS.

*PETER didn't study medicine at Cambridge.* (It was Susan.)

*Peter didn't study MEDICINE at Cambridge.* (He studied biology.)

In writing, we can use a special sentence structure if necessary (see page 260).

*It was not Peter who studied medicine at Cambridge, but Susan.*

**not all, not every** We most often put **not before** a subject beginning with *all* or *every*.

*Not all British people drink tea.* (LESS COMMON: *All British people don't drink tea.*)

*Not every bird can fly.* (LESS COMMON: *Every bird cannot fly.*)

# negative questions

**construction** Negative questions can be constructed in two ways.

**CONTRACTED (INFORMAL)**

**n't** after **auxiliary verb** or **be**

Why **didn't** she answer?

**Hasn't** Emma phoned?

**Aren't** they at home?

**UNCONTRACTED (FORMAL, UNUSUAL)**

**not** after **subject**

Why did **she not** answer?

Has **Emma not** phoned?

Are **they not** at home?

We say **aren't I?**, not **amn't I?**

'**Aren't I next?**' 'No, Harry is.' (BUT NOT ~~I aren't next.~~)

## 1 Make these questions more conversational.

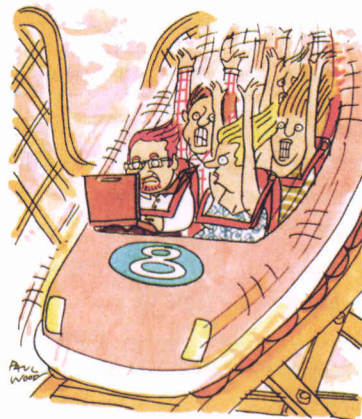
- ▶ Why did you not phone? *Why didn't you phone?*
- 1 Who did they not tell? .....
- 2 Are you not well? .....
- 3 What did we not understand? .....
- 4 Was the office not open? .....
- 5 Do you not speak Chinese? .....
- 6 Are we not in the right place? .....

**answers to negative questions** Note how we use *Yes* and *No* in answers to negative questions. The choice depends on the answer, not the question. *Yes* goes with or suggests an **affirmative** verb; *No* goes with or suggests a **negative** verb.

'Don't you like it?' **Yes** (I like it). 'Aren't you ready?' **No** (I'm not ready).'

## 2 Add Yes or No to the answers.

- ▶ 'Can't you swim?' '**Yes**....., I can.'
- 1 'Don't you understand?' '....., I don't.'
- 2 'Didn't Ann tell you?' '....., she did.'
- 3 'Wasn't the post office open?' '....., it was.'
- 4 'Hasn't she phoned?' '....., she has.'
- 5 'Didn't he agree?' '....., he didn't.'
- 6 'Isn't this awful?' '....., it is.'
- 7 'Aren't you hungry?' '....., I am.'
- 8 'Can't you find the address?' '....., I can't.'



'Don't you ever switch off, Jeremy?'

**checking negative ideas** We often use negative questions to check that something has not happened, is not true, etc. The meaning is like 'Is it true that ... not ... ?'

**Hasn't Mary phoned?** I wonder if she's forgotten. (= 'Is it true that Mary hasn't phoned?')

**Can't you come this evening?**

These questions can also express **surprise** that **something has not happened**, is not happening, etc.

**Haven't the tickets come yet?** **Didn't he tell you he was married?**

The structure is often used in **rhetorical questions** – questions which don't ask for an answer (see page 287).

**Can't you read?** It says 'closed'. **Don't you ever listen** to what I say?



**3 Use negative questions to check the following negative ideas.**

- ▶ It looks as if she's not at home. *Isn't she at home?*
- 1 It looks as if you don't understand. ....
- 2 So you haven't read this book? .....
- 3 Do you mean that Magnus hasn't got a work permit? .....
- 4 Perhaps you didn't get my message. ....
- 5 I think perhaps you didn't turn the lights off. ....
- 6 It seems as if you can't understand English. I said 'Go away'. ....
- 7 Is it true that he didn't pass his driving test? .....
- 8 I'm afraid you don't like English food. ....

**checking positive ideas** Negative questions can also check **that something is true.**

*Didn't you see Peter yesterday? How is he?* (= 'I believe you saw Peter ...')

**4 Make negative questions to make sure that these things are true. Put in words from the box. Use a dictionary if necessary.**

appointment deposit insurance ✓ interest profit reservation washer

- ▶ I think we paid the fire ... last month.  
*Didn't we pay the fire insurance last month?*
- 1 You made a ... for dinner at 8.00, right?  
.....
- 2 I'm pretty sure Ann paid a 10% ... with her order.  
.....
- 3 I thought you said you were going to put a new ... on the tap.  
.....
- 4 I believe that this account pays 3% ...  
.....
- 5 My ... with Dr Masters is at 10.30, surely?  
.....
- 6 The firm made a ... of half a million euros last year, no?  
.....

Negative questions are also common in **exclamations** (see page 13).

*Isn't it hot! Doesn't the garden look nice! Wasn't that lecture boring!*

**Note: polite invitations** We can use *Won't/Wouldn't ...?* in polite invitations.

*Won't you come in? Wouldn't you like something to drink?*

*Why don't you ...?* is also used in this way (BUT NOT *Why won't you ...?*). Compare:

*Why don't you join us for a drink?* (= 'Please join us ...')

*Why won't you join us for a drink?* (= 'Why don't you want to?')

We do not use negative questions to ask people to do things for us.

*Can you help me? You couldn't help me, could you?*

BUT NOT *Can't you help me?* (This sounds like a criticism.)

# more about negatives

***I don't think etc*** We usually use ***I don't think*** + affirmative verb, not ***I think*** + negative verb. The same is true with ***believe, suppose, imagine*** and similar verbs.

***I don't think*** you know Joe. (MORE USUAL THAN *I think you don't know Joe.*)

***I don't believe*** she's at home.

***I don't suppose*** you can lend me some money?

However, with ***hope*** we normally make the **following** verb negative.

***I hope it doesn't rain.*** (NOT ~~*I don't hope it rains.*~~)

For expressions like *I hope so/not, I believe so/not*, see page 279.

## 1 Change the sentences and choose the best words to complete them.

Use a dictionary if necessary.

▶ The laboratory hasn't completed the *analysis / inspection*. (*I / think*)

*I don't think the laboratory has completed the analysis.*

1 Your report of the meeting isn't quite *exact / accurate*. (*we / believe*)

2 You didn't understand the *lecture / conference*. (*I / suppose*)

3 You don't know Ruth's *site / whereabouts*. (*I / suppose*)

4 John won't read the *instructions / lecture* I sent him. (*I / imagine*)

5 Emma doesn't have a driving *licence / record*. (*I / think*)

6 I didn't make my *intentions / inventions* clear. (*I / think*)

7 You didn't remember to *apply / book* our plane tickets. (*I / suppose*)

8 The company hasn't got enough *figures / funds* to continue trading. (*I / believe*)

There is a similar use of *not* and other negative words with ***seem, expect*** and ***want before an infinitive***.

***He doesn't seem to like you.*** (LESS FORMAL THAN *He seems not to like you.*)

***I don't expect to be back before Monday.*** (LESS FORMAL THAN *I expect not ...*)

***I never want to see you again.*** (MORE NATURAL THAN *I want never to see ...*)

## 2 Change the sentences.

▶ He's probably not from around here. (*He doesn't seem ...*)

*He doesn't seem to be from around here.*

1 I don't think she's ready. (*She doesn't seem*)

2 I probably won't be home late. (*I don't expect ...*)

3 I would hate to climb another mountain. (*I never want ...*)

4 It doesn't rain much here, apparently. (*It doesn't seem ...*)

5 I probably won't pass the exam. (*I don't expect ...*)



6 He is determined not to get married. (*He never wants ...*)

7 I don't think the water's hot. (*The water ... seem ...*)

8 I would hate to work with him. (*... never want ...*)

9 I don't think I'll be here tomorrow. (*... expect ...*)

10 I don't think the heating is working. (*... seem ...*)

**not ... or** When *not* refers to two or more verbs, nouns, adjectives etc, we usually join them with **or**.

*He doesn't smoke or drink.* (NOT *He doesn't smoke nor drink.*)

*She wasn't angry or upset.*

*It's not on the table or in the cupboard.*

However, we can use **nor** after a pause, to separate and emphasise a second idea.

*Our main need is not food, nor money. It is education.*

*She didn't phone on Tuesday, nor on Wednesday.*

Note that *neither* cannot be used in this way.

For *neither ... nor*, see page 203.

### 3 Write about two things that you don't do (or like or want).

▶ *I don't sing or play an instrument.*

#### NOTES

**not ... because** Negative sentences with *because*-clauses can often be understood in two ways.

*I didn't sing because Pat was there.* (= 'I didn't sing' or 'I sang, but for another reason')

The confusion can be avoided by reorganising the sentence.

*Because Pat was there, I didn't sing.* OR *I sang, but not because Pat was there.*

**extra not** In informal speech, expressions like *I don't think* or *I don't suppose* are often added after a negative statement. This makes no difference to the meaning of the statement.

*She hasn't got much chance of passing her driving test, I don't think.*

*We won't be home before midnight, I don't suppose.*

Also in informal speech, a negative verb (without a negative meaning) is sometimes used after expressions of doubt or uncertainty.

*I shouldn't be surprised if they didn't get married soon.* (= '... if they got married')

*I wonder whether I oughtn't to see the doctor.* (= '... whether I ought ...')

**ain't** The word *ain't* is very common in many English dialects (but is not used in modern standard English). It means 'am/are/is not' or 'have/has not'.

*We ain't ready yet. I ain't got a clue what she wants.*

**We use *nor* and *neither*** rather than *also not*. Note the word order.

*The chief engineer was not in the building, and nor was his assistant.*

(NOT ... *and his assistant was also not.*)

*'I didn't think much of the game.'* ***Neither did I.***

For negative subjunctives (e.g. *It is important that she not be disturbed*), see page 224.