

Social English
for
Learners

如何用英语提问

How to ask Questions

Betty Kirkpatrick

How about...?

Would you like...?

What's the matter?

Are you sure?

Know what I mean?



北京大学出版社
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How to ask Questions

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Betty Kirkpatrick

熊学勤 译注



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Betty Kirkpatrick

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责任编辑: 刘 爽

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举报电话: 010-62752024

电子邮箱: fd@pup.pku.edu.cn

PREFACE

前言

It is important for learners of English to be familiar with the various ways that questions can be asked in English. Questions form an important element of English, particularly spoken English. Without such a knowledge of questions, and indeed without a corresponding knowledge of how to answer them, learners of English will be unable to become truly fluent in conversational English.

对于英语学习者而言,熟悉用英语提问的多种方法是至关重要的。问句是英语语言中一个重要的组成部分,对于英语口语而言更是如此。如果不知道如何提问,也不知道如何回答这些问题,英语学习者就不可能真正流利地进行英语会话。

This book describes the various ways that questions can be asked in English. It gives copious examples of all the question methods so that learners can see the language of questions in action. These examples of questions come accompanied by appropriate answers. Language notes have been inserted throughout the book to add to the student's knowledge of questions.

本书介绍了用英语提问的多种方法,并为所有提问方法提供了丰富的例子,以便学习者能够明白问句在实际中的运用。这些问句的示例都伴有适当的回答。全书还加入了语言知识的注释,以便学生能够了解问句的相关知识。

The book is divided into four parts, one part for each question method. Each part is subdivided into units. Thus, for example, the part dealing with words beginning with *wh-* to ask questions is divided into individual units, each dealing with a particular *wh-word* such as *who*, *which*, *what*, *when*, and so on. The part dealing with the use of modal verbs in asking questions is divided into individual units, each dealing with a particular modal verb such as *can*, *could*, *would*, *should*, and so on.

本书分为四部分,一个部分讲解一种提问方法。每个部分又分为不同单元。例如,讲解以 *wh-* 疑问词为首的问句的部分又被分为不同单元,分别讲解各个特定的 *wh-* 疑问词,如: *who*, *which*, *what*, *when* 等。而讲解用情态动词提问的部分也分为不同单元,分别讲解各个特定的情态动词,如: *can*, *could*, *would*, *should* 等等。

Each unit is provided with two reading passages, especially written for the purpose. These show students how questions and answers are actually used in English and how they relate to each other in a continuous piece of prose.

每个单元中还包括专门为该单元目标所编写的两段阅读材料,以向学生展示问句和回答在英语中的实际运用,以及它们在一个连续文段中彼此的关系。

Each part is followed by a series of exercises based on the information given in each part. This enables students to discover how successful their studying of question methods has been. Answers are provided for the various exercises.

根据各部分的内容,每一部分后面都附有相关练习,让学生可以自我检测学习是否有效。所有练习都配有相应答案。

This book describes the various ways that questions can be asked in English. It gives copious examples of all the question methods so that learners can see the language of questions in action. These examples of questions come accompanied by appropriate answers. Language notes have been inserted throughout the book to add to the student's knowledge of questions.

本书介绍了用英语提问的各种方法,并配有大量例句,以便学生了解提问的语法知识。书中还附有大量例句,以便学生了解提问的语法知识。

The book is divided into four parts, one part for each question method. Each part is subdivided into units. Thus, for example, the part dealing with words beginning with wh- to ask questions is divided into individual units, each dealing with a particular wh-word such as who, which, what, when, and so on. The part dealing with the use of modal verbs in asking questions is divided into individual units, each dealing with a particular modal verb such as can, could, would, should, and so on.

本书分为四个部分,每一部分又分为若干单元。例如,wh-开头的问句部分又分为who, which, what, when, and so on等单元。而情态动词部分又分为can, could, would, should等单元。

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INTRODUCTION

简介

Questions are sentences which seek information of some kind. They are followed by a question mark (?). There are several ways of asking questions in English.

问句是用于寻求某种信息的句子,都带有一个问号(?).英语中有几种提问的方式。

1 Questions using **wh**-words

使用 **wh**- 疑问词提问

A common type of question in English is known as a **wh-question** because such a question begins with one of a series of words beginning with **wh**-. These include **who**, **whom**, **whose**, **which**, **what**, **when**, **where**, **why** and **how**, although **how** does not begin with **wh**-.

英语中一种常见的问句形式就是 **wh**- 问句,因为在这样的句子中,首单词都是由 **wh**- 开头的一组词汇中的一个。这些词汇包括: **who**, **whom**, **whose**, **which**, **what**, **when**, **where**, **why** 和 **how**, 尽管 **how** 并不是以 **wh**- 开始的。

Wh-questions are seeking some kind of specific information and so require an answer other than **yes** or **no**. Such questions are sometimes known as **open questions** because they allow the person replying to the question a wider choice of answer than other questions do.

wh- 疑问句用于寻求某种特定的信息,所以一般不用 **yes** 或 **no** 来回答这样的句子。这种问句有时被称为开放型问句,因为与其他问句相比,此时,回答者可选择的回答范围更为广泛。

- '**What** happened?' 'The driver lost control of the car.'
- '**Who** won the competition?' 'Jack.'
- '**Whose** bike is that?' 'It's mine.'
- '**Which** necklace do you prefer?' 'This one.'

The information given in reply to a **wh**- question is often a sentence in

more formal contexts, but sometimes, especially in less formal contexts, it can be a phrase, or even just one word:

对 **wh-** 疑问句的回答常常是用于较为正式的语境下的句子,但有时,尤其是在较不正式的语境中,答语也可以是一个短语,甚至就是一个单词:

- ‘**Why** did you sell your flat?’ ‘I needed more space.’
- ‘**Who** is that?’ ‘My girlfriend.’

Sometimes a question using a **wh-word** is a **rhetorical question**. Rhetorical questions take the form of questions, but they are not really used to seek information. In fact, they do not expect an answer at all. In many cases they are simply expressing a strong opinion or feeling on the part of the speaker, rather than expecting a response from the person they are speaking to:

有时,反问句中也可使用 **wh-** 疑问词。反问句的形式确实是问句,但是它们往往并不用于寻求信息。实际上,它们根本就不需要答语。在很多情况下,它们只是用来表达说话者某种强烈的想法或感情,而并不需要其对话者做出反应:

- ‘**Who** does she think she is? She had no right to use my computer without my permission.’
- ‘**What on earth** do you think you’re doing? This is private land.’

2 Questions using auxiliary verbs

使用助动词提问

Another method of asking questions in English involves the use of **auxiliary verbs**. Auxiliary verbs, also known as **helping verbs**, such as **am, is, are, was, were, do, does, did, has, have, had**, are often used in **yes / no questions**, questions which seek the answer **yes** or **no**, or an equivalent of one of these:

英语中另一种提问的方法需要使用助动词。助动词,也叫“帮助动词”,如 **am, is, are, was, were, do, does, did, has, have, had**,常常被用于 **yes/no** 问句中,这种问句寻求的答案为 **yes** 或 **no**,或是其他可以表达它们中任一意义的答语:

- *'Are you sure our neighbours have moved?'*
'Yes. I saw the removal van outside their house yesterday.' Or
'No, but I know that they were planning to.' Or
'I don't know.'

3 Questions using modal verbs

使用情态动词提问

Another method of asking questions involves the use of **modal verbs**. Modal verbs such as **can, could, shall, will, should, would, may, might, must**, are often used in **yes / no questions**, questions which seek the answer **yes** or **no**, or an equivalent of one of these:

另一种提问的方法需要使用情态动词。情态动词,如 **can, could, shall, will, should, would, may, might, must**, 经常被用于 **yes/no** 问句中,这种问句寻求的答案为 **yes** 或 **no**,或是其他可以表达它们中任一意义的答语:

- *'Could you give me a lift to work tomorrow?'*

4 Questions using question tags

使用反意疑问句提问

Sometimes a **question tag** is added at the end of the statement, making it more obvious that the statement is, in fact, a question. A question tag is formed by using the same auxiliary verb or form of the verb 'be' as is used in the statement and this verb is followed by a personal pronoun, which refers to the subject of the statement, such as **can you?, might we?, isn't it?, couldn't you?**, etc.

反意疑问句有时被加在一个陈述句结尾,更清楚地表明这个陈述句实际上是一个问句。反意疑问句中使用的助动词或动词 **be** 的形式与陈述句中相同,且这个动词后面跟一个人称代词,以表明该陈述句的主语,如: **can you?, might we?, isn't it?, couldn't you?** 等等。

You use a question tag when you expect agreement from the person you are speaking to. You usually add a **negative tag** to a positive

statement and a **positive tag** to a negative statement:

当你期望从对话一方得到认同的时候,往往会使用反意疑问句。通常,在肯定陈述句后面会用否定反意疑问句,而在否定陈述句后用肯定的反意疑问句:

- 'You **have** your passport, **haven't** you?'
- 'Yes, here it is.'
- 'The child **hasn't** been sick again, **has** she?'
- 'No, she's only been sick once.'

Sometimes a **question tag** is added at the end of the statement, making it more obvious that the statement is, in fact, a question. A question tag is formed by using the same auxiliary verb or form of the verb 'be' as is used in the statement and this verb is followed by a personal pronoun, which refers to the subject of the statement, such as *can you?*, *might we?*, *isn't it?*, *couldn't you?*, etc.

反意疑问句有时被加在一个肯定或否定陈述句后面,更清楚地表明这个陈述句实际上是肯定的或否定的。反意疑问句中使用的助动词或 be 的形式与陈述句中相同,且这个助动词后面跟一个人称代词,以表明被提问的主语,如: *can you?*, *might we?*, *isn't it?*, *couldn't you?* 等等。

You use a question tag when you expect agreement from the person you are speaking to. You usually add a **negative tag** to a positive

Part 1 Using wh-words to ask questions

第一部分 使用 wh- 疑问词提问

Wh-questions usually begin with a word beginning with **wh-**, such as **who, whom, whose, which, what, when, where, why** and **how**, although **how** does not begin with **wh-**. You use these question words to ask for facts.

wh- 问句的首单词通常是由 **wh-** 开头的词汇,如:**who, whom, whose, which, what, when, where, why** 和 **how**, 尽管 **how** 并不是以 **wh-** 开始的。你可以使用这些句子询问某些事实。

The answer to a **wh-question** is often a sentence. Sometimes, especially in less formal contexts, it can be a phrase, or even just one word. However, the answer to **wh-questions** is never just **yes** or **no**.

wh- 问句的答语通常都是一个句子。有时,尤其是在较不正式的语境中,也可以是一个短语,或者甚至就是一个单词。然而,**wh-** 问句的答案不能是 **yes** 或者 **no**。

A **wh-question** usually begins with one of the **wh-words** listed above and ends with a question mark(?). The **wh-word** is often followed by a verb and this verb sometimes takes the form of a **modal verb** such as **can, could, may, might**, etc, or an **auxiliary verb**, such as **is, are, did, has**, etc.

wh- 问句通常是由上述 **wh-** 疑问词开头,并以一个问号(?)结尾的。该 **wh-** 疑问词后面经常跟一个动词,这个动词有时是情态动词,如 **can, could, may, might** 等,或是助动词,如 **is, are, did, has** 等。

When a **wh-word** is the subject of a question or part of the subject, the **wh-word** comes first and this is followed by the verb or verb group, the word order being the same as that of an ordinary statement:

当 **wh-** 疑问词作问句的主语或该主语的一部分时,该 **wh-** 疑问词在前,动词或动词词组在后,此时词序与正常的陈述句一致:

- **'What happened?'**

'The driver lost control of the car.'

- **'Which flowers did you choose?'**

'Roses.'

When a **wh-word** is the object of a verb or preposition, or when it is an adverb, the **wh-word** still comes first. The subject is put after the first part of the verb group:

当 **wh-** 疑问词是动词或介词的宾语,或当它是副词时,该 **wh-** 疑问词仍然位于句首。而主语则放在动词词组的第一部分之后:

- **'Which do you prefer?'**

'This one.'

- **'What is she searching for?'**

'Her car keys.'

- **'Where has the man gone now?'**

'I don't know.'

- **'How does she feel now?'**

'She's still depressed.'



The information given in reply to a **wh-question** is often a sentence in more formal contexts, but sometimes, especially in less formal contexts, it can be a phrase, or even just one word:

在较为正式的语境中,**wh-**问句的答语通常都是一个句子。但有时,尤其是在较不正式的语境中,它也可以是一个短语,甚至就是一个单词:

- **'Why did you sell your flat?'**

'I needed more space.'

- **'Who is that?'**

'My girlfriend.'

Unit 1

第一单元

WHO, WHOM AND WHOSE

Who

How to use it 如何使用

You use **who** in questions when you want to know the name or identity of someone or of some people.

当你想知道某人或某些人的姓名或身份时,在问句中会用到 **who**。

- 1 You use **who** to ask the name or identity of someone or of some people when **who** is the subject of the verb:

当 **who** 是动词的主语时,可用来询问某人或某些人的姓名或身份:

- '**Who** is that man over there? He looks familiar.'
'That's Jim Brown, our MP.'
- '**Who** are these people? I don't recognize any of them.'
'They're employees from one of the branches of the firm.'
- '**Who** is the new managing director?'
'It's Peter Allen. He's just been appointed.'
- 'Jack keeps talking about Jane. **Who's** Jane?'
'She's Jack's new assistant.'
- '**Who** are The Fliers?'
'A new local pop group.'
- '**Who's** Sue's father? Apparently he lives around here.'
'That's Jack White who lives next door to my cousin Jean in King Street.'
- '**Who's** in charge here? I want to complain about the poor service.'
'Mr Allen, but I'm afraid he's not here just now.'

- ‘**Who’s** the man who introduced the first speaker?’
‘That’s Tom White, our marketing director.’



Language Help 语言帮助

Note the spelling of **who’s**, which is the contracted form of **who is ...?** It is sometimes wrongly confused with **whose**, as in **Whose** car is that?

注意 **who is...?** 的缩写形式 **who’s**, 有时候它容易与 **whose** 混淆, 如在句子 **Whose car is that?** 中。

If you say **What’s Sue’s father?**, you are asking what job he does. You are not asking about his identity.

如果你说 **What’s Sue’s father?**, 你是在问他所从事的工作, 而并非询问他的身份。

- 2 You also use **who** to enquire about the name or identity of someone or some people when **who** is the object or complement of a verb, except in very formal contexts:

除了在非常正式的语境中之外, 当 **who** 是动词的宾语或补足语时, 也可用来询问某人或某些人的姓名或身份:

- ‘**Who** did you invite?’
‘Jim. He’s my new boyfriend.’
- ‘**Who** did the police question?’
‘They questioned all of us.’
- ‘**Who** did the teacher punish?’
‘Jim and Bill.’



Language Help 语言帮助

Formerly, this use was considered ungrammatical and **whom** was used in such contexts. See **whom**.

以前认为这种用法不合语法, 而在这种语境中, 应使用 **whom**。见 **whom**。

- ‘**Who** has she accused of theft?’
‘She’s accused the cleaner.’
- ‘**Who** did you ask?’
‘I asked the shop manager.’

3 You also use **who** to enquire about the name or identity of someone or some people when it is the object of a preposition, except in very formal contexts:

除了在非常正式的语境中之外,当 **who** 是介词的宾语时,也可用来询问某人或某些人的姓名或身份:

- ‘**Who** will the children play **with**?’
‘My brother’s children.’
- ‘**Who** was Bob dancing **with**?’
‘He danced with quite a few girls.’
- ‘**Who** was Jack beaten **by** in the tennis final?’
‘Jim’s younger brother Bill.’
- ‘**Who** were you talking **to**?’
‘My mother. I haven’t phoned her for ages.’
- ‘**Who** were the winners chosen **by**?’
‘The principal.’



Language Help 语言帮助

Formerly, this use was considered ungrammatical and **whom** was used in such contexts. See **whom**.

以前认为这种用法不合语法,而在这种语境中,应使用 **whom**。见 **whom**。

4 You can also use **who?** on its own, especially in response to something someone has said:

who? 可以单独使用,尤其是当它作为对某人所说某事的回复时:

- ‘I think I know who the thief is.’
‘**Who?**’

- 'I'd better not say until I tell the police.'
- 'I've discovered who Jane's new boyfriend is.'
- 'Who?'
- 'Jim White.'

who are you to...? / who am I to...? / who is he, etc to...?

You use these expressions to ask what right or authority someone has to do something. The expressions are often used in **rhetorical questions** and often sound quite rude or unfriendly:

这些表达方法可用来询问某人做某事的权力或权威。它们经常用在反问句中,而且通常有些无理或不太友好:

- '**Who are you to** criticize Sue for not coping with the children? You don't know what it's like to be a single mother or to have not enough money to live on.'
- '**Who is he to** complain about what the government is doing with our taxes? He's unemployed and has never paid tax in his life.'



Language Help 语言帮助

A **rhetorical question** is one to which the speaker or writer does not expect an answer.

说话者或写作者在使用反问句时并非需要对它进行回答。

who asked you?

You say **who asked you?** to someone who has made a comment or remark when you think that they should not have done so because what is being discussed does not concern or involve them. It is often rather a rude expression and is usually a **rhetorical question**:

当你认为对某事件的讨论与某人不相关,而此人对此做出评论或发表意见时,你可以对此人说 **who asked you?** 这通常是一种十分无理的表达方法,而且常常是个反问句:

- ‘I think you are being rather hard on the girl.’
‘**Who asked you?** I’m in charge of staff discipline and I’ll decide what’s to be done and what’s not to be done.’
- ‘I think you should let Sue go on a gap year if she wants to. It’ll be good for her.’
‘**Who asked you?** You’re not the one who’s going to have to pay for her foreign travel. I am!’

who can say?

You use **who can say?** when you want to emphasize the lack of certainty or information relating to something. It is usually a **rhetorical question**:

当强调关于某事缺乏确定性或必要信息时,可使用 **who can say?**。这通常是个反问句:

- ‘What will happen next? Will there be a war?’
‘**Who can say?** Only time will tell.’
- ‘Will Jane and Jim get married?’
‘**Who can say?** Jim’s had several serious girlfriends before.’



Language Help 语言帮助

You can use **who’s to say?** instead of **who can say?**:

可以使用 **who’s to say?** 来代替 **who can say?**:

- ‘Will Jack get another job?’
‘**Who’s to say?** He’s very talented, but there aren’t many jobs in his field around here.’

who cares?

You use **who cares?** when you want to show that you do not think that something is at all important. It is often rather a rude expression and is usually a **rhetorical question**:

当想表明某件事情毫不重要时,可使用 **who cares?**。这种表达法通常比较无理,而且常常是个反问句: