Reference 4.2 Interrogatives and Questions

**Interrogatives:** Interrogatives are questions words that look for specific information in an interrogation (when someone is asking a question).

1. Quién 1. Who
2. Quiénes 2. Who (plural)
3. Qué 3. What
4. Cuándo 4. When
5. Dónde 5. Where
6. Por qué 6. Why
8. Cuál 8. Which
11. Cuántos 11. How many

**Accent Marks:** All interrogatives receive an accent mark when you are forming a question; this is to provide a “tilt” in your voice when you form a question.

**Formation of a Question**

- Questions that do **not** contain an interrogative are considered “yes” and “no” questions, even in English.
  - **Example:**
    - **Question:** Do you play the saxophone?
    - **Response:** Yes, I play the saxophone.
    - **Response:** No, I do not play the saxophone.
    - **Note:** The question did **not** contain an interrogative.

- **Inverted Subject Pronouns:** When you are creating a question in Spanish, you do not use the verb “do” as a helping verb to form the question like English. Instead, you invert your subject and your verb. This means that the verb will precede (go before) the subject.
  - **Example:**
    - **Question:** ¿Hablas tú el español?
    - **Response:** Sí, yo hablo el español.
    - **Response:** No, yo no hablo el español.
  - **Example:**
    - **Question:** ¿Dibujan ellos bien?
    - **Response:** Sí, ellos dibujan bien.
    - **Response:** No, ellos no dibujan bien.
    - **Note:** In the above examples, the verb precedes the subject. In the responses, the subject precedes the verb.
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- **Questions with Interrogatives**: Questions with interrogatives are formed the same way as “yes” or “no” questions. With these questions, we will place the interrogative at the beginning.
  - Example:
    - Question: ¿Cuándo practicas tú el vocabulario?
    - Response: Yo practico el vocabulario a las tres.
  - Example:
    - Question: ¿Dónde practicas tú el vocabulario?
    - Response: Yo practico el vocabulario en mi dormitorio.

**Reciprocal Response**

**Reciprocal Response**: The formation of how you would naturally answer a question. (This applies to Spanish and English.)

It is important to know whom or what a question is directed towards in order to answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If a question is asked in:</th>
<th>It will be responded in:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Person</td>
<td>Second Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Person</td>
<td>First Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Person</td>
<td>Third Person</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Singular** subjects in a question always remain **singular** in the answer.
- **Plural** subjects in a question always remain **plural** in the answer.

**Examples:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How are <strong>you</strong>? (2\textsuperscript{nd} person singular)</td>
<td>I am well. (1\textsuperscript{st} person singular)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do <strong>I</strong> look? (1\textsuperscript{st} person singular)</td>
<td><strong>You</strong> look terrible. (2\textsuperscript{nd} person singular)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does <strong>she</strong> work? (3\textsuperscript{rd} person singular)</td>
<td>Yes, <strong>she</strong> works. (3\textsuperscript{rd} person singular)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do <strong>you all</strong> need help? (2\textsuperscript{nd} person plural)</td>
<td>Yes, <strong>we</strong> need help. (1\textsuperscript{st} person plural)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do <strong>they</strong> draw well? (3\textsuperscript{rd} person plural)</td>
<td>Do <strong>they</strong> draw well? (3\textsuperscript{rd} person plural)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No, <strong>they</strong> do not draw well. (3\textsuperscript{rd} person plural)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>