

Educational material to learn English

EMBEDDED QUESTIONS?



An embedded question is a type of question which is included within another question or sentence. It is different from other types of questions, as there must not be any auxiliary verb between the question word and the subject.

WITHIN SENTENCES



- We can also use embedded questions as part of statements. The embedded question is a noun clause and can be used in a similar way to a noun. For example, we can use it as the subject or the object of the main clause.
- If the embedded question is not part of another question then there's no need to use a question mark at the end of that sentence.
- Sentences that include embedded question usually begins with common introductory phrases.

FOR EXAMPLE:



Embedded Questions within Statements

Common Introductory Statement Phrases	Common Questions	Embedded Question Examples
I wonder...	Is our teacher sick today?	I wonder whether (or not) our teacher is sick today.
I asked...	Can I have an extension?	I asked if I could have an extension.
I want to know...	How much was your car?	I want to know how much your car was.
I don't know...	Who does this book belong to?	I don't know who this book belongs to.
I'm not sure...	Where are my keys?	I'm not sure where my keys are.
The question is...	Should we go ahead with it?	The question is if we should go ahead with it (or not).
Let's ask...	Do they like video games?	Let's ask whether they like video games (or not).



WITHIN QUESTIONS

We can use embedded questions as part of other questions. This is sometimes called an indirect question and is often used to be polite. Here are some examples of an embedded question within another question:



Embedded Questions within Questions

FOR EXAMPLE:



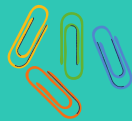
Common Introductory Question Phrases	Common Questions	Embedded Question Examples
Do you know...	When does the class start?	Do you know when the class starts?
Who knows...	What is the answer?	Who knows what the answer is?
Do you think...	Can he come tonight?	Do you think he can come tonight?
Do you remember...	Where is the restaurant?	Do you remember where the restaurant is?
Could you tell me...	Is there free parking?	Could you tell me if there is free parking?
Would you mind telling me...	What time is it?	Would you mind telling me what time it is?



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TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT



- We use the same rules with embedded questions in statements as we do with embedded questions in indirect questions.
- If there is a question word, we keep it.
- If there is no question word, we use 'if' or 'whether'.
- We use normal sentence grammar (so we don't need 'do / does / did').
- We use normal sentence word order (subject + verb, not the opposite).
- We use a full stop and not a question mark at the end of the sentence.