

## Yes-No Questions & Content Questions 是非问句和特指问句

### Grammar

#### 1. Yes-no question

subject	predicate	object	
名词/名词短语/代词 等 (Noun/Noun Phrase/Pronoun etc.)	动词 (verb)	名词/名词短语 等 (Noun/Noun Phrase etc.)	吗

疑问助词“吗”表示疑问语气，用在陈述句句尾构成疑问句。

The particle “吗” indicates an interrogative mood. When “吗” is added at the end of a statement, the statement turns into a question.

For example:

Wáng lǎoshī shì Hànyǔ lǎoshī.

(1) 王 老师 是 汉语 老师。

Teacher Wang is a Chinese teacher.

Wáng lǎoshī shì Hànyǔ lǎoshī ma?

王 老师 是 汉语 老师 吗?

Is teacher Wang a Chinese teacher?

Dàwèi shì Měiguó rén.

(2) 大卫 是 美国 人。

David is an American.

Dàwèi shì Měiguó rén ma?

大卫 是 美国 人 吗?

Is David an American?

Tā rènshi Ānnà.

(3) 他 认识 安娜。

He knows Anna.

Tā rènshi Ānnà ma?

他 认识 安娜 吗?

Does he know Anna?

Wǒ xǐhuan chàng gē.

(4) 我 喜欢 唱 歌。

I like singing.

Nǐ xǐhuan chàng gē ma?

你 喜欢 唱 歌 吗?

Do you like singing?

### Notice:

用“吗”构成的疑问句，只需要用“是”和“否”来回答。最简单的回答方式是“是/不是”，也可以用“动词/不+动词”来回答。

The interrogative sentences with “吗”，only need to answer “yes” or “no”. The easiest way to answer that is “是/不是”，another way to answer that is “verb/不+verb”.

For example:

Wáng lǎoshī shì Hànyǔ lǎoshī ma?

(1) 王 老师 是 汉语 老师 吗? Is teacher Wang a Chinese teacher?

Shì.

- 是。Yes, he is.

Bú shì.

- 不是。No, he isn't.

Dàwèi shì Měiguó rén ma?

(2) 大卫 是 美国 人 吗? Is David an American?

Shì.

- 是。Yes, he is.

Bú shì.

- 不是。No, he isn't.

Tā rènshi Ānnà ma?

(3) 他 认识 安娜 吗? Does he know Anna?

Rènshi.

- 认识。 Yes, he does.

Bú rènshi.

- 不 认识。 No, he doesn't.

Nǐ xǐhuan chàng gē ma?

(4) 你 喜欢 唱 歌 吗? Do you like singing?

Xǐhuan.

- 喜欢。 Yes, I do.

Bù xǐhuan.

- 不 喜欢。 No, I don't.

## 2. Content question

在汉语中，疑问句的语序和陈述句的语序是相同的。疑问词所在的位置和陈述句中答案所在的位置一样。

In Chinese, the word order of interrogative and declarative sentences are identical. Interrogative words are placed at the same place as the thing you are asking about if the sentence is a statement.

For example:

疑问词 Interrogative words	陈述句 Declarative sentences	疑问句 Interrogative sentences
shénme 什么 what	Wǒ jiào Lǐ Míng. 我叫李明。 My name is Li Ming.	Nǐ jiào shénme? 你叫 <b>什么</b> ? What's your name?
	Zhè shì Zhōngwén shū. 这是 <b>中文</b> 书。 This is a Chinese book.	Zhè shì shénme? 这是 <b>什么</b> ? What's this?
shéi 谁 who	Tā shì wǒ mèimei. 她是 <b>我</b> 妹妹。 She is my sister.	Tā shì shéi? 她是 <b>谁</b> ? Who is she?

	<p>Wǒ huì kāi chē. 我会开车。 I can drive.</p>	<p>Shéi huì kāi chē? <u>谁</u> 会开车? Who can drive?</p>
<p>nǎ 哪 which</p>	<p>Wǒ shì Měiguó rén. 我是<u>美国</u>人。 I'm American.</p>	<p>Nǐ shì nǎ guó rén? 你是<u>哪</u>国人? Which country are you from?</p>
	<p>Wǒ xǐhuan zhè běn shū. 我<u>喜欢</u> <u>这</u>本书。 I like this book.</p>	<p>Nǐ xǐhuan nǎ běn shū? 你<u>喜欢</u> <u>哪</u>本书? Which book do you like?</p>
<p>jǐ/duōshǎo 几/多少 How many</p>	<p>Wǒ érzi wǔ suì le. 我儿子<u>五</u>岁了。 My son is five years old.</p>	<p>Nǐ érzi jǐ suì le? 你儿子<u>几</u>岁了? How old is your son?</p>
	<p>Wǒ jiā yǒu sì kǒu rén. 我家有<u>四</u>口人。 There are four people in my family.</p>	<p>Nǐ jiā yǒu jǐ kǒu rén? 你家有<u>几</u>口人? How many people are there in your family?</p>
	<p>Wǒ yǒu wǔshí ge xuéshēng. 我有<u>五十</u>个学生。 I have fifty students.</p>	<p>Nǐ yǒu duōshǎo ge xuéshēng? 你有<u>多少</u>个学生? How many students do you have?</p>
<p>shénme shíhou 什么时候 when</p>	<p>Wǒ míngtiān qù Shànghǎi. 我<u>明天</u>去上海。 I'm going to Shanghai tomorrow.</p>	<p>Nǐ shénme shíhou qù Shànghǎi? 你<u>什么</u>时候去上海? When are you going to Shanghai?</p>
	<p>Wǒ de shēngrì shì liù yuè yī hào. 我的生日是<u>六月一</u>号。 My birthday is June first.</p>	<p>Nǐ de shēngrì shì shénme shíhou? 你的生日是<u>什么</u>时候? When is your birthday?</p>
<p>nǎr / nǎli 哪儿/哪里 where</p>	<p>Wǒ zhù zài Běijīng. 我住在<u>北京</u>。 I live in Beijing.</p>	<p>Nǐ zhù zài nǎr / nǎli? 你住在<u>哪儿/哪里</u>? Where do you live?</p>
	<p>Wǒmen qù túshūguǎn kàn shū. 我们去<u>图书馆</u>看书。 We go to the library to read.</p>	<p>Wǒmen qù nǎr / nǎli kàn shū? 我们去<u>哪儿/哪里</u>看书? Where shall we read?</p>

Notice:

1. 疑问代词“哪”用在疑问句中的结构形式为：哪+量词/名词+名词。

When the interrogative pronoun “哪” is used in a question, the structure is “哪+ measure word/noun + noun”.

For example:

nǎ běn shū

(1) 哪本书 which book; “本”, a measure word for books.

nǎ ge rén

(2) 哪个人 which people; “个”, a general measure word.

nǎ bēi shuǐ

(3) 哪杯水 which glasses of water; “杯”, a measure word for water.

2. 疑问代词“几”一般用于询问 10 以下的数量; “多少”一般用于询问 10 以上的数量。

The interrogative pronoun “几” is usually used to ask about numbers less than 10; the interrogative pronoun “多少” is usually used to ask about numbers larger than 10.

3. 特指问句的句尾一般不能加语气助词“吗”。

The end of content questions should not be added the particle “吗”.

For example:

Zhè shì shénme ma?

(1)\*这是 什么 吗? ×

(What's this?)

Shéi shì Hànyǔ lǎoshī ma?

(2)\*谁 是 汉语 老师 吗? ×

(Who is Chinese teacher?)

Nǐ yǒu duōshǎo běn shū ma?

(3)\*你 有 多少 本 书 吗? ×

(How many books do you have?)

Cèsuǒ zài nǎlǐ ma?

(4)\*厕所在哪里吗? ×

(Where is the toilet?)

Nǐ shénme shíhou huí jiā ma?

(5)\*你什么时候回家吗? ×

(When you will go home?)

有时候，特指问句的句尾可以加“吗”，此时疑问代词在句中不表示疑问的含义。 Sometimes, the particle “吗” can be added on the end of content questions, but at this point, the interrogative pronoun does not mean the interrogative in the sentence.

For example:

Nǐ xiǎng chī diǎn shénme?

(1) 你想吃点什么?

What do you want to eat?

Nǐ xiǎng chī diǎn shénme ma?

你想吃点什么吗?

Would you like something to eat?

Shéi yǒu qiānbǐ?

(2) 谁有铅笔?

Who has a pencil?

Shéi yǒu qiānbǐ ma?

谁有铅笔吗?

Does anyone have a pencil?