

LESSON 6: "IS" AND "ARE" IN QUESTIONS

GRAMMAR SNAPSHOT • QUESTIONS & THE QUESTION MARK (?)

- A **question** asks something. It begins with a **Capital letter** and ends with a **Question Mark (?)**.
- In questions, **Is** begins a question about **one**, and **Are** begins a question about **more than one**.

SINGULAR QUESTION (ONE)

Is the boy here? • **Is** the girl happy?

PLURAL QUESTION (MORE THAN ONE)

Are the boys here? • **Are** the girls happy?

PART A • COPY AND PUNCTUATE QUESTIONS

Copy these questions neatly. Place a question mark (?) at the end of each question.

1. Is the boy here?

2. Are the boys here?

3. Is the girl happy?

4. Are the girls happy?

PART B • CHANGE STATEMENTS INTO QUESTIONS

Change each statement into a question. Begin with "Is" or "Are" and end with a question mark (?).

5. The apple is ripe.

6. The apples are ripe.

7. The book is new.

8. The books are new.

SELF-CHECK

Did each question begin with a Capital letter? Did you place a question mark (?) at the end of every question?

Lesson 6: "Is" and "Are" in Questions

Teacher Answer Key, Syntactic Guide & Question Transformation Rubric

TEACHER ANSWER KEY

CORE PEDAGOGICAL OBJECTIVES

- **Interrogative Syntax:** Teach Subject-Auxiliary Inversion (moving *Is/Are* to sentence-initial position).
- **Question Mark Mastery:** Contrast the terminal period (.) in statements with the question mark (?) in questions.
- **Number Consistency:** Ensure singular subjects take *Is* and plural subjects take *Are* in questions.

INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS & STRATEGIES

- **Rising Intonation:** Practice reading questions aloud with pitch rise at the end.
- **Punctuation Modeling:** Demonstrate drawing the question mark curve down to a dot on the baseline.
- **Transformation Game:** Teacher says a statement ("The bell is ringing."); students chant the question ("Is the bell ringing?").

#	EXEMPLARY TARGET QUESTION	GRAMMATICAL & SYNTACTIC FOCUS	TEACHER EVALUATION NOTES
1	Is the boy here?	Singular question (<i>Is</i> + <i>the boy</i>)	Check capital 'I' in <i>Is</i> and question mark (?) at end.
2	Are the boys here?	Plural question (<i>Are</i> + <i>the boys</i>)	Verify plural verb <i>Are</i> matches plural noun <i>boys</i> .
3	Is the girl happy?	Singular question (<i>Is</i> + <i>the girl</i>)	Check neat handwriting on ruled line; question mark must be distinct.
4	Are the girls happy?	Plural question (<i>Are</i> + <i>the girls</i>)	Confirm capital 'A' in <i>Are</i> ; verify final mark (?).
5	Is the apple ripe?	Transformation: <i>The apple is...</i> → <i>Is the apple...</i>	Watch for misplaced periods; must replace (.) with (?).
6	Are the apples ripe?	Transformation: <i>The apples are...</i> → <i>Are the apples...</i>	Ensure subject-verb agreement is maintained in inversion.
7	Is the book new?	Transformation: <i>The book is...</i> → <i>Is the book...</i>	Singular subject selects <i>Is</i> ; check lowercase 't' in <i>the</i> .
8	Are the books new?	Transformation: <i>The books are...</i> → <i>Are the books...</i>	Plural subject selects <i>Are</i> ; end with question mark (?).

SYNTACTIC RULE OF INVERSION & VOCAL INTONATION

Rule of Inversion:

- Statement: *The girl* (Subject) + *is* (Verb) + *happy*.
- Question: *Is* (Verb) + *the girl* (Subject) + *happy?*

Spoken Oral Reading Intonation:

- Yes/No questions naturally rise in pitch at the end: "*Is the boy here?* ↗"
- Statements fall in pitch at the terminal period: "*The boy is here.* ↘"

COMMON PITFALLS & TEACHER REMEDIATION

- **Terminal Period Error:** Putting a period (.) instead of a question mark (?). Prompt: "Are you telling or asking? An asking sentence needs (?)"
- **Inversion Blindness:** Writing **The boy is here?** instead of *Is the boy here?*. Teach students to leapfrog the verb to the front.
- **Capitalization Slip:** Forgetting to lowercase the original first word (e.g. writing **Is The boy here?**).

SCORING RUBRIC (10 POINTS TOTAL)

Terminal Question Mark (?) Accuracy	4 pts (0.5 pt × 8)
Subject-Verb Agreement (<i>Is</i> / <i>Are</i>)	3 pts
Initial Capitalization & Word Order	2 pts
Handwriting & Ruled Line Neatness	1 pt