

LESSON 9: USING "IS" TO ASK QUESTIONS

GRAMMAR SNAPSHOT • HOW TO ASK QUESTIONS WITH "IS"

• To ask something about **one** object, begin your question with **Is** (e.g., *Is the slate clean?*).

• Remember: Every question begins with a **Capital letter** and ends with a **Question Mark (?)**.

Lesson 9 Word Bank:

a slate

a desk

apple

pencil

ruler

picture

book

door

PART A • ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT CLASSROOM OBJECTS

Use "Is" to ask a question about each item below. Remember to end with a question mark (?).

1. **a slate** (Ask a question using "Is")

2. **a desk** (Ask a question using "Is")

3. **an apple** (Ask a question using "Is")

4. **a pencil** (Ask a question using "Is")

PART B • ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT STUDY & ROOM OBJECTS

Use "Is" to ask a question about each item below. Remember to end with a question mark (?).

5. **a ruler** (Ask a question using "Is")

6. **a picture** (Ask a question using "Is")

7. **a book** (Ask a question using "Is")

8. **a door** (Ask a question using "Is")

SELF-CHECK

Did each question begin with Capital "Is"? Did you place a Question Mark (?) at the end of each question?

Lesson 9: Using "Is" to Ask Questions

Teacher Answer Key, Exemplary Question Models & Interrogative Formulation Guide

TEACHER ANSWER KEY

CORE PEDAGOGICAL OBJECTIVES

- **Autonomous Question Formulation:** Transition from copying/transforming questions to self-generating authentic interrogative inquiries with *Is*.
- **Determiner Inclusion:** Ensure singular countable nouns are accompanied by appropriate articles (*a*, *an*, *the*) following *Is*.
- **Terminal Question Mark Mechanics:** Cement the question mark (?) as the non-negotiable ending for all asking sentences.

INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS & STRATEGIES

- **Interactive Classroom Inquiries:** Have students ask these questions to classmates in real time (e.g., pointing to a book: "Is the book open?").
- **Predicate Brainstorming:** Elicit diverse predicates: descriptive adjectives (*sharp*, *clean*, *ripe*) or locations (*on the desk*, *in the room*).
- **Spelling & Intonation Check:** Reiterate the rising intonation pattern and the initial capital letter 'I'.

#	EXEMPLARY MODEL QUESTION (ACCEPT CREATIVE ANSWERS)	SYNTACTIC STRUCTURE	TEACHER EVALUATION NOTES
1	Is the slate clean? (Alt: Is a slate on your desk?)	<i>Is + the/a slate + adjective/prep</i>	Must open with Capital <i>Is</i> and terminate with (?).
2	Is the desk made of wood? (Alt: Is this desk clean?)	<i>Is + the desk + predicate</i>	Check agreement; article required before <i>desk</i> .
3	Is the apple sweet and red? (Alt: Is an apple in the basket?)	<i>Is + the/an apple + predicate</i>	If using indefinite article, check for an (not *a apple*).
4	Is your pencil sharp? (Alt: Is the pencil in the box?)	<i>Is + the/a/your pencil + predicate</i>	Encourage varied determiners (<i>the</i> , <i>a</i> , <i>your</i>); verify (?).
5	Is the ruler twelve inches long? (Alt: Is a ruler on the table?)	<i>Is + the ruler + predicate</i>	Ensure student wrote a question, not a statement.
6	Is that picture beautiful? (Alt: Is the picture on the wall?)	<i>Is + the/a picture + predicate</i>	Verify singular noun <i>picture</i> ; end with question mark.
7	Is the book interesting to read? (Alt: Is the book new?)	<i>Is + the book + predicate</i>	Award credit for meaningful content; check capitalization.
8	Is the classroom door open? (Alt: Is the door shut?)	<i>Is + the door + predicate</i>	Confirm final punctuation mark is (?) and not (.).

❶ QUESTION FORMULAS WITH " IS " (SINGULAR COPULAR INVERSION)

Formula 1: Describing a Quality

- **Is** + [Determiner + Noun] + [Adjective] + ?
"Is the pencil sharp?" • "Is the apple sweet?"

Formula 2: Inquiring About Location

- **Is** + [Determiner + Noun] + [Prepositional Phrase] + ?
"Is the slate on the desk?" • "Is a ruler on the table?"

COMMON STUDENT ERRORS & TEACHER REMEDIATION

- **Bare Noun Omission:** Writing *Is apple sweet?* or *Is ruler long?*. Instruct: "Singular nouns must have a helper word like *the*, *a*, or *an*."
- **Terminal Period Habit:** Habitually ending questions with a period (.). Have child circle the '?' at the end of each question in green ink.
- **Incomplete Question:** Writing just *Is a desk?*. Remind child: "Ask *what* about the desk: Is it big? Is it new? Is it in the room?"

SCORING RUBRIC (10 POINTS TOTAL)

Interrogative Syntax (Begins with "Is")	3 pts
Determiner + Singular Noun Accuracy	3 pts
Terminal Question Mark (?) Accuracy	2 pts
Meaningful Predicate & Neat Handwriting	2 pts