

Name:

Asking Questions in Spanish

A. Interrogative Words

- The following words/phrases help us to recognize that a question follows (especially in spoken Spanish). Notice that they all have accents.

cómo	<i>how</i>	¿Cómo está tu madre? <u>How</u> is your mother?
cúal(es)	<i>which or what</i>	¿Cuál película es tu favorita? <u>Which</u> movie is your favorite? ¿Cuáles zapatos son tus favoritos? <u>Which</u> shoes are your favorites?
cuándo	<i>when</i>	¿Cuándo vas al cine? <u>When</u> are you going to the movies?
cuánto(s) cuánta(s)	<i>how much/many</i>	¿Cuánto dinero tienes? <u>How much</u> money do you have? ¿Cuántas fotos sacaste? <u>How many</u> photos did you take?
(a)dónde	<i>where</i>	¿Adónde van ellos? <u>Where</u> are they going (to)? ¿Dónde está el coche? <u>Where</u> is the car?
por qué	<i>why</i> <i>(for what reason)</i>	¿Por qué estás en la tienda? <u>Why</u> are you at the store? (Response: Because I need new shoes) (Response: Porque necesito zapatos nuevos)
para qué	<i>why</i> <i>(for what purpose)</i>	¿Para qué estás en la tienda? <u>Why</u> are you at the store? (Response: In order to buy these new Converse) (Response: Para comprar estos nuevos Converse)
qué	<i>what</i>	¿Qué es ese animal? <u>What</u> is that animal?

quién(es)

who

¿Quién es ella?

Who is she?

¿Quiénes son tus amigos?

Who are your friends?

B. Questions using only verbs

- In English, when asking a question with only a verb, we have to include a “helping verb” and we also change our intonation. Look at the following examples:

Statement: They walk a lot.

Question: **Do** they walk a lot? → → → “Do” is what we call the helping verb

- In Spanish, we don't have helping verbs when asking questions. We simply switch the position of the subject and verb, and change our intonation. We also include an inverted (upside-down) question mark to signal the start of a question (the helping verb serves this function in English).

Statement: Enrique camina a la escuela hoy.

Enrique walks to school today.

Question: ¿Camina Enrique a la escuela hoy?

Does Enrique walk to school today?

C. Practice

For the following statements in Spanish, write a corresponding question, just like the example above.

1. Statement: Paula estudia en la biblioteca. Paula studies in the library.

Question:

2. Statement: Roberto hace ejercicios. Roberto exercises.

Question:

3. Statement: Yolanda cocina una cena deliciosa. Yolanda cooks a delicious dinner.

Question:

4. Statement: Beatriz está en el parque. Beatriz is in the park.

Question: