

INVERSIONS

LESSON FOCUS

OBJECTIFS DE LA LEÇON

1. to learn how to ask questions using the **inversion** method

NIVEAU

A2 - [niveau usuel](#) (elementary)

UTILISATION DE L'INVERSION POUR POSER UNE QUESTION

The **inversion** method consists of **placing the verb before the subject**.

A hyphen is required between the verb and the subject pronoun.

Do/did do not exist in French. You simply place the verb at the beginning of the sentence.

The letter **t** is required in front of **elle(s)**, **il(s)** or **on** when the verb ends with a vowel. This is to avoid a break, making the sentence sound better.

PRÉSENT

- **Parlez-vous** français ? OR **Parles-tu** français ?

Do you speak French?

- **Parlent-ils** français ?*

Do they speak French?

*In this example, you need to make the **liaison** between the verb and the subject pronoun. So you need to pronounce the **t**.

- **A-t-elle** un chien ?**

Does she have a dog

Notice the **t between the verb **a** and the subject pronoun **elle**. This is to make the sentence sound better.

- **Vas-tu** au théâtre ce soir ? OR **Allez-vous** au théâtre ce soir ?***

Are you going to the theatre tonight?

***To translate the **-ing form**, we simply use the **present tense**.

EXERCICE

Convert the following sentences into questions using the inversion method:

1. Elles vont à la bibliothèque aujourd'hui.
 2. Elle a un chien
 3. Nous allons chez Alice.
 4. Ils parlent allemand.
 5. J'ai raison.
-

RÉPONSES

1. **Vont-elles** à la bibliothèque aujourd'hui ?
 2. **A-t-elle** un chien ?
 3. **Allons-nous** chez Alice ?
 4. **Parlent-ils** allemand ?
 5. **Ai-je** raison ?
-

NOTES

It is possible to use this method for the first person singular **je** and the auxiliaries **être** and **avoir**:

- **Ai-je deux chats ?**

Do I have two cats?

- **Suis-je fort ?**

Am I strong?

However, the inversion method cannot be used with **je** and **other verbs**. In this case, you need to use: **est-ce que**:

- **Est-ce que je mange ?**

Do I eat?