# LESSON 16
# QUESTIONS

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## OBJECTIFS DE LA LEÇON

*Quand allez-vous en France et comment est-ce que vous allez voyager ?*

1. to learn how to ask **questions**
2. to practise using interrogative adverbs: **quand**, **où**, **comment**, **combien**, **pourquoi**

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## NIVEAU

**A2** - niveau usuel (elementary)

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## FORMER DES QUESTIONS EN UTILISANT L'INTONATION

In French, you can form questions using rising intonation at the end of the sentence.

- **Tu aimes les bananes ?**
  Do* you like bananas?
- **Tu joues de la guitare ?**
  Do you play the guitar?
- **Vous allez à Paris ?**
  Are you going to Paris?
- **Il pleut ?**
  Is it raining?

*In English, you know that you are asking a question because you use **do** or **did**, however in French we don't have **do** or **did**, so don't try to translate literally.

Intonation is mostly used in informal language.

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## FORMER DES QUESTIONS EN UTILISANT « EST-CE QUE »

You can also form questions using **est-ce que**. The sentence order does not change so it is quite simple to use.

- **Est-ce que tu aimes les bananes ?**
  Do you like bananas?
- **Est-ce que vous allez à Paris ?**
  Are you going to Paris?
- **Est-ce qu'il pleut ?**
  Is it raining?

**Est-ce que** is very commonly used in French so it is advisable to learn how to use it.

Please be aware that the **que** becomes **qu'** when followed by a **vowel** or an **h**.

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## FORMER DES QUESTIONS EN UTILISANT L'INVERSION

You can also form questions using **inversion**. Invert the **verb** and **subject** and put a **hyphen** between the two.

- **Aimes-tu les bananes ?**
  Do you like bananas?
- **Allez-vous à Paris ?**
  Are you going to Paris?
- **Pleut-il ?**
  Is it raining?

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## ADVERBES INTERROGATIFS

- **où** - where
- **quand** - when
- **comment** - how
- **pourquoi** - why
- **combien** - how much
- **combien de** - how many

The position of these adverbs can vary depending on how you ask the question.

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## OÙ ?

Where are you going?

- Tu vas **où** ?
- Où **est-ce que** tu vas ?
- Où **vas-tu** ?

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## QUAND ?

When are you going to France?

- Tu vas en France **quand** ?
- Quand **est-ce que** tu vas en France ?
- Quand **vas-tu** en France ?

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## COMMENT ?

How do you make pancakes?

- Tu fais les crêpes **comment** ? / **Comment** tu fais les crêpes ?
- Comment **est-ce que** tu fais les crêpes ?
- Comment **fais-tu** les crêpes ?

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## POURQUOI ?

Why did you leave?

- **Pourquoi** tu es parti ?
- Pourquoi **est-ce que** tu es parti ?
- Pourquoi **es-tu** parti ?

Please note that when using a **passé composé** in an inverted question, the order is as follows: **auxiliary** + **sujet** + **past participle**.

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## COMBIEN ?

How much does it cost?

- C'est **combien** ? Ça coûte **combien** ?
- Combien **est-ce que** ça coûte ?
- Combien cela **coûte-t-il*** ?

*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 and to make the sentence sound better.

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## COMBIEN DE ?

How many people are there in the room?

- Il y a **combien de** personnes dans la salle ?
- Combien **est-ce qu'**il y a de personnes dans la salle ?
- Combien **y a-t-il*** de personnes dans la salle ?

*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 and to make the sentence sound better.

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## EXCEPTIONS

Please note that inversion with **je** is not normally used in French.

So the question *Mange-je avec toi à midi ?* is not correct.

This question needs to be formed with **est-ce que.**

- **Est-ce que** je mange avec toi à midi ?
  Am I eating with you at lunchtime?

However, **avoir** (to have), **être** (to be), **devoir** (to have to/must) and **pouvoir** (to be able to/can) are the four verbs which can be inverted with **je**.

- **ai-je**... ? (have I?)
- **suis-je**... ? (am I?)
- **dois-je**... ? (must I?)
- **puis-je**... ? (can I?)*

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*__Peux__ becomes __puis__ when we invert the verb __pouvoir__.

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## PRATIQUE

Translate the following four English sentences into French using **est-ce que**.

1. Do you have a single room available?
2. Where is he?
3. Why are* **you** (sing.) wearing a pink dress today? (**porter** - to wear/carry)
4. How did** **they** (masc.) go to school yesterday?

*Remember to use a simple present tense when translating the English continuous tense. So **you are wearing** becomes **you wear**.
**Remember to use a **passé composé**.

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## TRADUCTION DE LA PHRASE

- **Quand allez-vous** en France et **comment est-ce que** vous allez voyager ?
  When do you go to France and how are you going to travel?

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## RÉPONSES

1. **Est-ce que** vous avez une chambre simple disponible ?
2. Où **est-ce qu'**il est ?
3. Pourquoi **est-ce que** tu portes une robe rose aujourd'hui ?
4. Comment **est-ce qu'**ils sont allés à l'école hier ?

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