# Learner Resource 7.1

### Question marks – why do we use them?

This guide has been written to give you all the info you’ll need about using question marks in the right place and at the right time.

The reason we need question marks is to show that the sentence is a question. It’s also useful if we want to suggest a sense of uncertainty or surprise about something:

* Do you like my new puppy?
* Does the green one suit me?
* Can I get it mended?
* How much will it be?
* He’s as angry as all that?

This applies to questions, like the above, that do need answers, and also to rhetorical questions, that don’t:

* You think I’m happy about this?
* Am I imagining things here?
* What did they expect?

We also need question marks in titles which need a question mark to complete them, for example Agatha Christie’s detective novel: *"Why Didn’t They Ask Evans?”*

We don’t, though, need question marks when we’re making a request that is actually a statement:

* It would be good if you could reply to us quickly.
* Please close the window.

Avoid multiple question marks except in informal contexts.

**Task**

Find some sentences from a range of online texts that use question marks, and add some of your own, making some correct and some incorrect. Now copy, paste and write ten sentences in total, for your partner to insert the question marks correctly!

**Extension Task:** Research how to use question marks correctly in reported speech.

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