Neil
Hello. Welcome to 6 Minute Grammar with me, Neil.

Sophie
And me, Sophie. Hello.

Neil
Today’s programme is all about questions.

Sophie
Yes: we’ll take a look at different types of yes-no questions…

Neil
We’ll hear lots of w-h questions…

Sophie
And we’ll be using the questions to get to know each other a little bit better.

Neil
So if you want a reminder of English question forms…

Sophie
Or if you’re if you’re studying them for the first time…

Neil
Keep listening and join in with the task we’ll be giving you later on.

Sophie
So let’s get started.

In English, there are two basic question types: yes/no questions and w-h questions.

Neil
And here’s Finn with our first yes-no question:
Finn
*Can you speak English? Can you speak English?*

Neil
Thanks Finn. That’s a useful first question.

Sophie
Yes, and it’s made with the **auxiliary** verb *can*, plus the subject *you* and a verb: *speak*. *Can you speak? Can you speak English Neil?*

Neil
Yes, *I can*. Another question please Finn?

Finn
*Do you work every day? Do you work every day?*

Sophie
**Auxiliary** *do*, subject *you*, verb *work*. *Do you work every day, Neil?*

Neil
*I don't, no*. *I don't work at weekends. Finn?*

Finn
*Do you have any brothers and sisters?*

Sophie
**Auxiliary** *do*, subject *you*, verb: *have*. *Neil, do you have any brothers or sisters?*

Neil
Yes I do I've got one sister. Now another way to make yes-no questions is with the verb to *be* plus a subject. Let’s demonstrate. Sophie: *Are you married?*

Sophie
*No, Neil, I'm not. Is your boss married?*

Neil
*My boss? No, he isn't. Neil, Were you in the office yesterday?*

Sophie
Yes, sadly I was in the office yesterday.

IDENT
You’re listening to BBC Learning English.
Neil
And we’re talking about question forms.

Sophie
Now the second main type of question in English starts with either what, where, when, which, why, who, or the odd one out:

Neil
… how.

Sophie
So let’s try making a question with where. We add an auxiliary…

Neil
… such as do

Sophie
… then we can add a subject plus a verb. For example: Neil: Where do you live? Where do you live?

Neil
I live in south London. Where do you live Sophie?

Sophie
I live in north London. Now let’s change the question word and the verb. Which languages do you speak?

Neil
And here we add a noun to which: Which languages do you speak?

Sophie
Just English. And with a different auxiliary: Which languages can you speak?

Neil
We can add nouns to some of the other question words: What time do you start work?

Sophie
About 9 o’clock in the morning. And if we ask What time is it? We’re making a w-h question with the verb to be. I can ask: Where were you born?

Neil
I was born in England. When is your birthday?
Sophie
In September. *What is your work address?*

Neil
It’s W1A. Lots of useful questions with *to be* there. Now for a very personal question with *to be*: *Sophie: How old are you?*

Sophie
You should never ask a woman her age! And for questions with *how*, we usually add an extra word. To ask about age it’s:

Finn
*How old…*

Sophie
For price it’s:

Finn
*How much…*

Neil
For size we ask:

Finn
*How big…*

Sophie
And for height it’s

Finn
*How tall.*

Sophie
*How tall are you, Neil?*

Neil
About 180cm. And of course, you *can’t* answer a *w-h* question with *yes* or *no*. *How tall are you, Sophie?*

Sophie
I think we’re actually the same height.

Neil
Let me see, back to back… No, I’m taller!
Is it time for a practice task Sophie?

Sophie  
Yes, it is. Join in at home if you like. I’m going to give you a topic to ask me about, and you have to make one yes/no question and one w-h question. And Neil will give some possible answers. Here’s the first topic: Ask me about my age.

Neil  
Ok so you could ask: *How old are you? When were you born?*

Sophie  
Now ask me about my home.

Neil  
*Do you live with your family? What is your address?*

Sophie  
Now ask me about my work.

Neil  
*Do you work near here? How much do you earn?*

Sophie  
Thanks Neil. And well done to you at home if you joined in with the task.

Neil  
So that’s a look at some basic question types we can use when we’re getting to know people. We had yes/no questions,

Sophie  
And we looked at questions starting with w-h words.

Neil  
And we found out some interesting information about each other. I didn’t know how tall you were, Sophie?!

Neil  
I know, it’s quite amazing really. And there’s lots more about questions forms on our website at bbclearingenglish.com. Join us again for more 6 Minute Grammar.

All  
Bye.