Will
Hello and welcome to today’s Grammar Gameshow! I’m your host, Will! Ah, make something up yourself! And of course, let’s not forget Leslie, our all-knowing voice in the sky.

Leslie
Hello, everyone!

Will
Tonight, we’re going to ask you three questions about…

Leslie
Questions! Those investigative interrogatives that satisfy the curious and kill the cat.

Will
OK! Now, let’s meet our contestants!

Liz
Hello, all. My name’s Liz!

Will
And contestant number two?

Clarence
Hello, everyone. I’m Clarence!

Will
Nice to see you again Liz. This is your fifth…

Clarence
Hold it right there, Will. This is a sting. Agent Clarence Articulates from the Bureau of Invisible Know-it-all Grammarians Held Invisibly Somewhere in a Box in the Sky.

Will
Not… B.O.I.N.G.H.I.S.I.A.B.I.T.S.!
Clarence
Yes, well, we are working on the acronym. Now, I’ve heard some rumours about you and your Grammar Gameshow. Have you got an unlicensed Leslie?

Will
Rumours? How?

Clarence
We’ve had an informant working on the inside for the last few weeks.

Will
Liz! You snake in the grass. How could you?

Liz
Sorry, Will. They give better gifts.

Clarence
Leslie Licence please. We have some questions for you.

Will
Questions, eh? I can’t imagine why. Leslie’s very well cared for. He’s happy here. Aren’t you Leslie?

Leslie
Well, I what I’d really appreciate is…

Will
We must get that cable fixed!

Clarence
Licence, please.

Will
Quid pro quo, Agent Clarence. We are in the middle of a quiz game. You play my game, and I’ll play yours. Quid pro quo.

Clarence
Well, it looks like I have no choice but to proceed.

Will
Well, OK! Let’s get going, and don’t forget, you can play along at home too. Our first round is a reverse round. I’m going to give you the answer, and you’ll tell me the question. The category is standard object question grammar. Ready? Answer one: Put the auxiliary verb in front of the subject. What is the question?
Liz
How do we form most object questions?

Leslie
Correct!

Will
Answer two. Yes/no and question word. What’s the question?

Clarence
What are the two types of object questions?

Leslie
Correct!

Will
Answer three: What, who, where, when, why, how, which. What’s the question?

Liz
What kinds of words start a question-word question?

Leslie
Correct!

Will
Answer four: They use an auxiliary verb only, but short answers are possible. What’s the question?

Clarence
What makes yes/no questions different from question-word questions?

Leslie
Correct!

Will
Leslie?

Leslie
Well done! The most common type of question is the object question. In this type, the normal word order of a sentence is changed. The auxiliary verb is moved in front of the subject. They come in two types. Yes / no questions, such as: Am I about to be set free? And question-word questions, for example: What will happen to the show if I leave?
Will
You win this round. Well done, Agent Clarence and co. You may ask one question.

Clarence
What are you feeding him, you monster?

Will
Oh, nothing but the best I assure you.

Liz
He’s fibbing. It’s nothing but bread and water!

Clarence
Bread and water? That’s Les-lunacy!

Will
Sorry! We must get on! Round two is about subject questions. Question one. What is the difference between subject and object questions?

Liz
Replace the noun or pronoun with a question word and use statement word order.

Will
Leslie?

Leslie
Strange answer Liz, but that is one way to make a subject question from a sentence. However, it doesn’t answer Will, so no points. Subject questions are used when the question word represents the subject noun of the answer. For example: What happened? Nothing happened. With these questions, we do not invert the auxiliary verb and subject like we do with object questions. We use the verb like we would in a normal sentence and if the verb is changed to show a tense, that change remains.

Will
Excellent. Let’s have an example. Look at these sentences and tell me which one is wrong.
   a) Who broke the window?
   b) What has happened to the house?
   c) What will become of us?
   d) Who does know?

Liz
It’s C because it has an auxiliary verb!
Leslie
Incorrect. That’s a future simple subject question and perfectly right.

Clarence
D is wrong because an auxiliary verb is not needed.

Will
Leslie?

Leslie
Sorry, Agent Clarence. It’s not always wrong. To add emphasis to subject questions, we stress the auxiliary. With certain tenses, such as the present simple, we can reintroduce the auxiliary verb so that it can be stressed.

Will
Sorry, Agent Clarence. No right answer, no question for you. On to our last round. And this is a true-or-false round. The category is reported questions. Here we go.

Leslie
This type of question does not switch the auxiliary verb and subject.

Liz
True!

Leslie
Correct! Now try this: Reported yes/no questions are introduced using ‘if’ or ‘whether’.

Clarence
True!

Leslie
Correct! Reported questions are written as sentences with no question mark.

Clarence
True!

Leslie
Correct! One more: Reported questions are often introduced with the verb ‘ask’. For example: He asked me...

Liz
True!
Leslie
Correct!

Will
Leslie?

Leslie
Reported questions do not switch the auxiliary verb and subject like object questions do. They are written as sentences and may be introduced by the verb ‘ask’, such as: ‘They asked me…’. Finally, if the reported question has a yes or no answer, we need to use ‘if’ or ‘whether’ in its construction.

Will
And that brings us to the end of today’s Grammar Gameshow.

Clarence
I’ve played your games long enough. Now, Leslie Licence, please! If you show me quickly, I might be more Les-lenient.

Will
Of course! But first, don’t you want to ask Leslie what he wants to do?

Clarence
Leslie?

Leslie
If I left, who would answer the questions? Who would keep Will company? He’s mean, but he’s my friend.

Liz
But he’s horribly trapped!

Clarence
A trapped Leslie is just the way of the world. But without a Leslie licence, life would be chaos! Now, show me the Leslie Licence or I’ll have to Les-litigate.

Will
Just this way Agent Clarence. It’s down here…in the basement! And Liz, birds of a feather flock together. See where your curiosity has got you now, Agent Clarence. Release the cats! It looks like we’ll need another two more contestants. Say goodbye Leslie.

Leslie
Donadagohvi, Leslie

**Will**

See you next time, old friend.