

# Grammar reference

## 1.1 Different question types

### GR1.1 )))

- 1 How long **has Anton been working** at the university?
- 2 Who **has been** to Italy before?
- 3 I was just wondering if **we'll arrive** on time?
- 4 Do you know where he comes **from**?

We form most questions by putting an auxiliary verb before the subject. For the present and past simple, we use the auxiliary *do/does/did*.

**Does Sam** speak French? *Where **did they** go?*  
**Have you** been to Italy? *When **are you** leaving?*

### Subject questions

When we are asking about the subject of a sentence, the word order is the same as in a statement and the question word replaces the subject. We do not use the auxiliary verbs *do/does/did*.

*Which countries **border** Russia?*

(NOT ~~*Which countries do border Russia?*~~)

*What **happened**?* (NOT ~~*What did happen?*~~)

- However, we use *don't/doesn't/didn't* in subject questions to ask about negative ideas.

*Who **didn't** receive the email?*

### Indirect questions

If we begin a question with a phrase like *Do you think ...*, *Do you know ...* and *Have you any idea ...*, we do not put the auxiliary verb before the subject and we do not use the auxiliary verbs *do/does/did*. The word order is the same as in a statement.

*Do you know where **Dariusz** works?*

(NOT ~~*Do you know where does Dariusz work?*~~)

*Have you any idea where **Alex** is?*

(NOT ~~*Have you any idea where is Alex?*~~)

### Questions with prepositions

When we are asking about the object of a preposition, the preposition usually goes at the end of the question.

*What are you looking **at**?*

*How long did you wait **for**?*

We can, however, sometimes put the preposition at the beginning of the question, but this generally sounds very formal, or rather old-fashioned.

***For** how long did you wait?*

In this formal style we can use *whom* as an object in a question.  
***For whom** did she work?*

- 1 Read the text and then write the questions for the answers.

It's estimated that there are up to 7,000 different languages in the world. Languages are grouped into families that share a common ancestry. For example, English is related to German and Dutch, and they are all part of the Indo-European family of languages. Another group of Indo-European languages is the Romance languages, such as French, Spanish and Italian, which come from Latin. Nearly every language shares a broadly similar grammatical structure, even though they may not be linked in vocabulary or origin. In many parts of the world where communities were historically isolated from each other, multiple languages may have developed. Papua New Guinea, for example, where many tribes were isolated by mountain ranges, has around 830 different languages. The world's five most spoken languages, according to figures from UNESCO, are Mandarin Chinese, English, Spanish, Hindi and Arabic. Mandarin Chinese has around a billion speakers and most come from north and south-central China. The United Nations uses six official languages to conduct business: English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Arabic.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Families that share a common ancestry.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
From Latin.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
A similar grammatical structure.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Papua New Guinea.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
A billion.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
From north and south-central China.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Arabic.

- 2 Rewrite the questions as indirect questions. Use the word in brackets.

- 1 What time will you be arriving? (know)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Is it going to rain? (think)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 How many languages do they speak in India? (idea)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 What time does the museum close? (idea)  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 1.2 Present perfect simple and continuous

### GR1.2 )))

- 1 Do you know if Peter **has called**?
- 2 My manager won't be pleased because I **haven't finished** the report yet.
- 3 **Haven't** you **sent** that email yet?
- 4 She **has been living** here for six months.
- 5 We're exhausted. We've **been driving** all night.
- 6 How long **have** you **been waiting**?

### Form

- The present perfect simple is *have* + past participle.  
*I've never **been** to Africa.*
- The present perfect continuous is *have* + *been* + *-ing*.  
*It's **been raining** since 10 o'clock this morning.*

### Use

We use the present perfect to connect the past and the present.

- We can often use either the present perfect simple or the present perfect continuous with *since* or *for* when something started in the past and continues now, or is repeated up to now.  
*We've **lived** / **ve been living** here for about a year now.*  
*I've **listened** / **been listening** to the new album a lot since I got it.*

However, if we want to put a focus on activity or on the 'doing' and to emphasize 'how long', we tend to use the present perfect continuous. And to say 'how many times' something has happened, we use the present perfect simple.

*I've **been working** hard since the start of term.*

*I've **written** three assignments since the start of term.*

Also, to emphasize that something is short-term and perhaps temporary, we tend to use the present perfect continuous.

*He's **only been working** here for a few weeks.*

We usually use the present perfect simple and not the present perfect continuous to talk about states rather than actions with verbs like *be*, *have*, *know*, *seem*.

*We've **known** each other since university.*

*She's **had** that laptop for over ten years!*

- We usually use the present perfect continuous for actions continuing or repeated for a short time up to the present, e.g. with phrases like *all day* and *recently*.  
*I've **been sending** emails all morning.*  
*What **have** you **been doing** recently?*
- We use the present perfect simple to talk about something that happened at an unspecified time in the past, when there is present relevance or an impact on the present. We often use it to announce news.

*I've **finished** the assignment at last!*

***Have** you **heard**? Tom's **lost** his job.*

- 1 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- 1 A Are you ready for your exam tomorrow?  
B I hope so. *I've revised* / *'ve been revising* for it all week.
- 2 A Do you want some lunch?  
B *I've eaten* / *'ve been eating* already.
- 3 A *Have you waited* / *Have you been waiting* long?  
B No, not long. Just a few minutes.
- 4 A Good news! Alex's *fixed* / *'s been fixing* the computer.  
B Great! *I've had* / *'ve been having* enough of using my phone to send emails.
- 5 A How long *have you learnt* / *have you been learning* English?  
B For about five years.  
A And *have you been* / *have you been going* to the UK?  
B Yes, *I've been* / *'ve been going* there a couple of times.
- 6 A You're late! What *have you done* / *have you been doing* for the last hour?  
B Sorry. *We've tried* / *'ve been trying* to find my wallet.  
*I've lost* / *'ve been losing* it.

- 2 Complete the text with the present perfect simple or present perfect continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

Research <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (predict) that about half of the languages spoken on Earth today will be extinct by the end of the century. Globalization and online communication, both of which <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (increase) at an unprecedented rate in recent years, are usually blamed. However, these aspects of the modern world may also help to save many of these endangered languages. For example, linguists <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (develop) a smartphone app to teach Tuvan, an indigenous language spoken in Siberia and Mongolia, which is in danger of disappearing. In fact, for some time now a number of endangered languages <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (use) social media and other online technologies to keep themselves alive. And while globalization <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (be) responsible for a lot of negative pressures on small cultures to change, a positive effect of globalization is that through digital technology, some languages <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (bring back) from extinction.