



# How to ask and answer questions

Semillas: Elementary Spanish



# How to ask questions

- Like in English, questions in Spanish start with an interrogative (like “why” or “who”).
- The word order in a question is different than in a normal sentence.
- Questions in Spanish always begin with an inverted question mark and end with a standard question mark: ¿...?







# INTERROGATIVES



# Interrogatives

## Spanish

- ¿Quién?
- ¿Qué?
- ¿Dónde?
- ¿Cuándo?
- ¿Por qué?

## English

- Who?
- What?
- Where?
- When?
- Why?







# Interrogatives

## Spanish

- ¿Cómo?
- ¿Cuál?
- ¿Cuánto, Cuánta?
- \*¿Cuántos, Cuántas?

\*These change in number and gender to match the noun they modify.

## English

- How?
- What? or Which?
- How much?
- How many?





# Some examples

- ¿**Quién** es la dentista? *Who is the dentist?*
- ¿**Cómo** se escribe tu nombre? *How do you spell your name?*
- ¿**Cuántos** libros hay? *How many books are there?*





# Word order in questions

- INTERROGATIVE > VERB > SUBJECT
  - ¿Cuál es tu número de teléfono?
- You can also form a question by putting question marks around a statement.
  - ¿Eres estudiante? *Are you a student?*
  - ¿Estudia biología? *Do you study biology?*
  - ¿Y tú? *And you?*





# How to answer questions

- If the answer to a question is affirmative, you use *Sí* + verb.
  - ¿Eres estudiante? **Sí, soy** estudiante. *Yes, I am a student.*
- If the answer to the question is negative, use *No, no + verb*.
  - ¿Estudia biología? **No, no estudio** biología. *No, I don't study biology.*







# Some things to remember



- When you use these words to form questions, they always have accents.
    - ¿**C**ómo te llamas? *How do you call yourself? or What is your name?*
  - Sometimes interrogatives are used with prepositions. If there is a preposition (a, de, con, para, etc.), it goes before the question word.
    - ¿**D**e dónde eres? *Where are you from?*
    - ¿**C**on quién vas al cine? *Who are you going to the movies with?*
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