

An **interrogative construction** is a grammatical form used to ask a question. There are two kinds of questions: yes/no questions and information questions. So-called yes/no questions may be answered with a simple 'yes' or 'no'.

Are you a student at the University of Texas?  
Have you ever been to Sixth Street or Barton Springs?  
Do you know how many Aggies it takes to screw in a lightbulb?

Information questions contain a specific interrogative word (who, what, when, why, how) and cannot be answered with a yes or no. Their purpose is to elicit a specific piece of information.

Who is Tex?  
When did he come to Texas?  
How did he learn French?

**Est-ce que** vous parlez français?      **Do** you speak French?



Besides using 'est-ce que', questions in French can be formed by **inversion** of the subject and verb.

**Parlez-vous** français?      **Do** you speak French?

### formulating questions

The word 'do' is used in English question formation. In similar fashion, French yes / no questions can be formed with the phrase **est-ce que**.

There are several other ways to ask a question in French. For instance, a **tag question** is a question word or phrase 'tagged' on to the end of a statement which requires a confirmation with a 'yes' or 'no' answer.

Vous parlez français, **n'est-ce pas**?      You speak French, **don't you**?

Finally, the most common way to ask a question in French conversation is to use **rising intonation**. In this kind of interrogative construction, the word order is the same as a declarative sentence, but the speaker's voice rises at the end to signal the question.

 Vous parlez français?      You speak French?