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Wh-Questions/Positive Imperative into Negative Imperatives (Study Notes)

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Transforming Declarative Sentences into Yes-No Questions

Two types of sentences in English are declarative sentences and interrogative sentences. Declarative sentences, or declarations, convey information or make statements. Interrogative sentences, or questions, request information, or ask questions. Periods indicate declarative sentences in written English. Question marks indicate interrogative sentences in written English. Declarative sentences are types of sentences that are used to state information. They are the most commonly used sentence type. Most academic writing employs simple or declarative sentences. Declarative sentences end with a period.

In changing declarative sentences into yes-no questions, it will be best to identify the helping verbs that are present in the sentence then place them at the beginning of the sentence and change the period at the end of the sentence into a question mark. Make sure that the verb agrees with the subject and that the sentence expresses a complete thought.

Our parents have treated us kindly and patiently.

Have our parents treated us kindly and patiently?

They had left already.

Had they already left?

She will win the contest.

Will she win the contest?

Declaration	Yes-No
I am a teacher.	Am I a teacher?
The bread is ready.	Is the bread ready?
Your child is a boy.	Is your child a boy?
You are an excellent reader.	Are you an excellent reader?

We are young.	Are we young?
I was a fan of cream cheese sandwiches.	Was I a fan of cream cheese sandwiches?
You were top of your class.	Were you top of your class?
She was a budding scientist.	Was she a budding scientist?
The dog was a dachshund.	Was the dog a dachshund?
The books were on the top shelf.	Were the books on the top shelf?
I love cheese.	Do I love cheese?
That painting belongs in a museum.	Does that painting belong in a museum?
My sister knits mittens for charity.	Does my sister knit mittens for charity?
We read almost every day.	Do we read almost every day?
You all bake the best bread.	Do you all bake the best bread?
I ate already.	Did I already eat?
You broke the fine china.	Did you break the fine China?
The dog barked loudly.	Did the dog bark loudly?
We swam in the lake.	Did we swim in the lake?
The children screamed all night.	Did the children scream all night?

Transforming Declarative Sentences into WH-Questions

WH-questions are questions starting with Wh-words including: what, when, where, who, whom, which, whose, why and how. We usually form wh-questions with wh- + an auxiliary verb (be, do or have) + subject + main verb or with wh- + a modal verb + subject + main verb: Be: When are you leaving? Who's been paying the bills?

These questions start with the following question words:

Who	Used to identify a person.	E.g. Who is she?
What	Used to identify a thing	E.g. What is it?
Which	Used to tell two (or more) things	E.g. Which leg hurts?
Where	Used to identify a place.	E.g. Where is Vancouver?
When	Used to identify a time.	E.g. When is your birthday?
Why	Used to identify a reason.	E.g. Why is she crying?
Whose	Used to identify possession.	E.g. Whose car is that?
What kind	Used to identify a type/kind.	E.g. What kind of dog do you have?
How	Used to explain a way/method.	E.g. How did you make the cake?
How long	Used to explain length or duration	E.g. How long is your hair?
How far	Used to identify distance.	E.g. How far is your house from the station?
How much	Used to identify quantity.	E.g. How much money do you have?
How often	Used to explain frequency.	E.g. How often do you brush your teeth?

Transforming Positive imperative Sentences into Negative Imperatives

Negative imperative uses don't+ the simple form of a verb (eat, play, be, etc.) We use imperatives to give orders, and directions and to make requests. To sound more polite, you can add the word please at the end or at the beginning of the sentence. Stop talking!

Positive imperative sentences: These sentences use affirmative verbs to address the subject. For example, "Pick up some bread from the store."

Negative imperative sentences: These sentences tell the subject to not do something. They usually begin with the verb "don't" or the negative form of a verb. The command given in an imperative sentence can be positive or negative, meaning it can be a "do" command or a "do not" command. In positive imperatives, the "do" is often implied, meaning the word "do" is not directly stated. In negative imperatives, the "do not" (or don't) is stated directly. At their most basic, imperative sentences are binary, which is to say they must be either positive or negative.

1. Stop talking.

Don't stop talking.

2. Open the door.

Do not open the door.

3. Get me a cup of coffee.

Don't get me a cup of coffee.

4. Sit down.

Don't sit down.

5. Somebody followed us.

Nobody followed us.

6. Wait here.

Don't wait here.

7. She said something rudely.

She did not say anything rudely.

8. Suhani must admit her mistake.

Suhani mustn't admit her mistake.

9. Calm down.

Don't calm down.

10. Be quiet.

Do not be quiet.

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