# Learner Resource 7.1

### Question marks – why do we use them?

This guide has been written to give you all the info you’ll need about using question marks in the right place and at the right time.

The reason we need question marks is to show that the sentence is a question. It’s also useful if we want to suggest a sense of uncertainty or surprise about something:

* Do you like my new puppy?
* Does the green one suit me?
* Can I get it mended?
* How much will it be?
* He’s as angry as all that?

This applies to questions, like the above, that do need answers, and also to rhetorical questions, that don’t:

* You think I’m happy about this?
* Am I imagining things here?
* What did they expect?

We also need question marks in titles which need a question mark to complete them, for example Agatha Christie’s detective novel: *"Why Didn’t They Ask Evans?”*

We don’t, though, need question marks when we’re making a request that is actually a statement:

* It would be good if you could reply to us quickly.
* Please close the window.

Avoid multiple question marks except in informal contexts.

**Task**

Find some sentences from a range of online texts that use question marks, and add some of your own, making some correct and some incorrect. Now copy, paste and write ten sentences in total, for your partner to insert the question marks correctly!

**Extension Task:** Research how to use question marks correctly in reported speech.

**OCR Resources**: *the small print*OCR’s resources are provided to support the delivery of OCR qualifications, but in no way constitute an endorsed teaching method that is required by the Board, and the decision to use them lies with the individual teacher. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the content, OCR cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions within these resources.   
© OCR 2020 - This resource may be freely copied and distributed, as long as the OCR logo and this message remain intact and OCR is acknowledged as the originator of this work.

OCR acknowledges the use of the following content: n/a

Please get in touch if you want to discuss the accessibility of resources we offer to support delivery of our qualifications: [resources.feedback@ocr.org.uk](mailto:resources.feedback@ocr.org.uk)