

English A1 · Imperatives and question words

Beginner English for Chinese speakers; classroom examples, not official exam items.

Two survival tools

Imperatives tell people what to do; question words ask for information. Together they run a whole classroom.

The invisible you

Type	Form	Example
positive	base verb	Stand up.
negative	Don't + base verb	Don't be late.
polite	Please + verb · verb + please	Please sit down. Close the door, please.

Use the evidence

The subject is always you, and it is invisible.

Your turn: build the command

Your turn

Tell the class not to run. Which is correct?

- ☐ A. Not run!
- ☐ B. Don't run!
- ☐ C. Doesn't run!
- ☐ D. You no run!

The question words

Word	Asks about	Example
what	a thing	What is this?
where	a place	Where is the library?
when / who	a time / a person	When is the test? Who is your teacher?
why / how	a reason / a way	Why are you late? How do you cook this?

Use the evidence

how teams up: how old, how many (countable), how much (uncountable or price).

Your turn: count or measure

Your turn

_____ water do you drink every day?

- A. How many
- B. How much
- C. How old
- D. How

The question word jumps

Chinese order

— word by word: you like what.

The question word stays where the answer would go.

English order

What do you like?

The question word jumps to the front, then the flip.

Your turn: make the jump

Your turn

she lives where → in English?

- A. She lives where?
- B. Where she lives?
- C. Where does she live?
- D. Where is she live?

why and because: the couple

They attend every party together

Why are you late? — Because I missed the bus.

How do you say in English? — A stapler.

Your turn: ask for the word

Your turn

You want the English word for . Ask:

- A. What do you call ? is wrong; say it in English first.
- B. How do you say "ding-shu-ji" in English?
- C. What means "ding-shu-ji"?
- D. How to say "ding-shu-ji"?

Say it aloud

Command kindly: Open your notebook.
Write one question. Don't show anyone.

Ask: What is your favourite food?
Where do you eat it? How much is it?

Answer in full sentences.

Please notice: please at the front. Polite and grammatical.

Check yourself

- Sit down. — the base verb alone; the subject is invisible.
- Please sit down. / Sit down, please. — please works at both ends.
- What do you like? — question word first, then the helper.
- How many books? How much water? — count or measure.