

How to make a question

IN A SPANISH QUESTION

The subject comes after the verb.

You can put the subject:

- 1) after the infinitive -
¿Necesita salir **José** ahora?
- 2) after the conjugated verb -
¿Necesita **José** salir ahora?
- 3) at the end of the sentence -
¿Necesita salir ahora **José**?

In our exercises, we are going to put the subject after the infinitive.

Look at the difference between a statement and question in Spanish.

José necesita trabajar. = Jose needs to work.

¿Necesita trabajar **José**? = Does Jose need to work?

Notice how the subject comes after the infinitive. Look at these examples:

- ¿Necesita salir **él**? = Does he need to leave?
 ¿Necesitan comer **ellos**? = Do they need to eat?
 ¿Necesitan venir **Uds.**? = Do you all need to come?
 ¿Necesita trabajar **Ud.**? = Do you (*formal*) need to work?
 ¿Necesita cantar **María**? = Does María need to sing?

1. At the beginning of this course, we were studying just the 'you' (*formal* = *Ud.*) and 'I' forms of the power verbs, so no clarifiers were used.

¿Necesita salir? = Do you (*formal*) need to leave?
 Sí, necesito salir. = Yes, I need to leave.

If the the clarifier 'you' (*Ud.*) were used, the question would be:

¿Necesita salir **Ud.**? = Do you (*Ud.*) need to leave?
 Sí, necesito salir. = Yes, I need to leave.

2. Since *necesita* can mean 'you' (*formal*), 'he,' or 'she,' we usually clarify with the subject pronoun in the question.

¿Necesita salir **él**? = Does he need to leave?
 Sí, necesito salir. = Yes, he needs to leave.

¿Necesita salir **ella**? = Does she need to leave?
 Sí, necesito salir. = Yes, she needs to leave.

3. Notice how we clarify 'you all' and 'they' (*m, f*).

¿Necesitan salir **Uds.**? = Do you all need to leave?
 Sí, necesitamos salir. = Yes, we need to leave.

¿Necesitan salir **ellos**? = Do they (*m*) need to leave?
 Sí, necesitan salir. = Yes, they need to leave.

¿Necesitan salir **ellas**? = Do they (*f*) need to leave?
 Sí, necesitan salir. = Yes, they need to leave.

4. Notice how the subject pronouns are used in the questions but are not in the answers. Once we know to whom we are referring, we don't use the pronouns because the verb indicates the subject.



Notice how the subject comes after the infinitive. Translate into English. answers below

1. ¿Necesita salir él? _____
2. ¿Necesitan comer ellos? _____
3. ¿Necesitas trabajar? _____
4. ¿Necesita pagar Ud.? _____
5. ¿Necesitan jugar los niños? _____
6. ¿Necesitan venir Uds.? _____



1. Does he need to leave?
2. Do they (*m*) need to eat?
3. Do you (*personal*) need to work?

4. Do you (*formal*) need to pay?
5. Do the children need to play?
6. Do you all need to come?

necesitar

yo necesito	nosotros necesitamos
tú necesitas	
él, ella, Ud. necesita	ellos, ellas, Uds. necesitan

Necesitar conjugation

translation exercise



Put the pronouns *él, ella, Ud., ellos, ellas,* and *Uds.* in the question after the infinitive. Leave them out in the answer.

answers on next page

- When does he need to eat? ¿Cuándo necesita comer él?
He needs to eat soon. Necesita comer pronto.
- Do you (*tú*) need to change money? _____
Yes, I need to change it. _____
- When does she need to begin? _____
She needs to begin as soon as possible. _____
- When do you all need to leave? _____
We need to leave next week. _____
- What do you (*tú*) need to buy? _____
I need to buy a gift for my son. _____
- When do you all need to know? _____
We need to know before tomorrow. _____
- Do you (*tú*) need to fill the tank? _____
No, I don't need to fill it now. _____
- Do they (*m*) need to close the store now? _____
Yes, they need to close it early. _____
- When do you (*Ud.*) need to sign the contract? _____ el contrato
I need to sign it this afternoon. _____
- Do they (*f*) need to earn more? _____
Yes, they need to earn a lot more. _____
- Does she need to change the sheets today? _____ las sábanas
No, she doesn't need to change them. _____
- Where does Miguel need to wait? _____
He needs to wait here. _____
- When does Jose need to answer the letter? _____
He needs to answer it this week. _____
- Do Maria & Carlos need to go with you (*Ud.*)? _____
Yes, they need to go with me. _____
- Do you (*tú*) need to use my telephone? _____
Yes, I need to use it please. _____
- When do you (*Ud.*) need to pay the rent? _____ la renta
I need to pay it on Monday. _____ el lunes



spoken exercise



to previous page

As a spoken exercise translate the Spanish column into English,
then the English column into Spanish.**él vs. el** (#1 and #2)

él with an accent = he

el without an accent = the (*m*)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. ¿Cuándo necesita comer él?
Necesita comer pronto. | 1. When does he need to eat?
He needs to eat soon. |
| 2. ¿Necesitas cambiar el dinero?
Sí, necesito cambiarlo. | 2. Do you (<i>tú</i>) need to change the money?
Yes, I need to change it. |
| 3. ¿Cuándo necesita empezar ella?
Necesita empezar cuanto antes. | 3. When does she need to begin?
She needs to begin as soon as possible. |
| 4. ¿Cuándo necesitan salir Uds.?
Necesitamos salir la próxima semana. | 4. When do you all need to leave?
We need to leave next week. |
| 5. ¿Qué necesitas comprar?
Necesito comprar un regalo para mi hijo. | 5. What do you (<i>tú</i>) need to buy?
I need to buy a gift for my son. |
| 6. ¿Cuándo necesitan saber Uds.?
Necesitamos saber antes de mañana. | 6. When do you all need to know?
We need to know before tomorrow. |
| 7. ¿Necesitas llenar el tanque?
No, no necesito llenarlo ahora. | 7. Do you (<i>tú</i>) need to fill the tank?
No, I don't need to fill it now. |
| 8. ¿Necesitan cerrar ellos la tienda ahora?
Sí, necesitan cerrarla temprano. | 8. Do they (<i>m</i>) need to close the store now?
Yes, they need to close it early. |
| 9. ¿Cuándo necesita firmar Ud. el contrato?
Necesito firmarlo esta tarde. | 9. When do you (<i>Ud.</i>) need to sign the contract?
I need to sign it this afternoon. |
| 10. ¿Necesitan ganar ellas más?
Sí, necesitan ganar mucho más. | 10. Do they (<i>f</i>) need to earn more?
Yes, they need to earn a lot more. |
| 11. ¿Necesita cambiar ella las sábanas hoy?
No, no necesita cambiarlas. | 11. Does she need to change the sheets today?
No, she doesn't need to change them. |
| 12. ¿Dónde necesita esperar Miguel?
Necesita esperar aquí. | 12. Where does Miguel need to wait?
He needs to wait here. |
| 13. ¿Cuándo necesita contestar José la carta?
Necesita contestarla esta semana. | 13. When does Jose need to answer the letter?
He needs to answer it this week. |
| 14. ¿Necesitan ir María y Carlos con Ud.?
Sí, necesitan ir conmigo. | 14. Do Maria & Carlos need to go with you (<i>Ud.</i>)?
Yes, they need to go with me. |
| 15. ¿Necesitas usar mi teléfono?
Sí, necesito usarlo por favor. | 15. Do you (<i>tú</i>) need to use my telephone?
Yes, I need to use it please. |
| 16. ¿Cuándo necesita pagar Ud. la renta?
Necesito pagarla el lunes. | 16. When do you (<i>Ud.</i>) need to pay the rent?
I need to pay it on Monday. |