

Ma France Unit 11 Booking a Gite - Grammar Notes

How to ask questions

Il coûte combien ?

Il y a une supérette près d'ici ?

Est-ce que le gîte est disponible ?

The simplest way to ask questions in French is to make your voice rise at the end of the sentence; the word order is the same as in a statement.

Vous partez en vacances ? Are you going on holiday?

Vous acceptez les chèques ? Do you accept cheques?

Very commonly though, French people start a question with **est-ce que...? Est-ce que** has no real meaning when on its own. Its function is to turn a statement into a question.

Est-ce qu'on peut réserver par téléphone ? Can we book by phone?

Est-ce qu'il y a des choses à faire ? Are there things to do?

Question words like où ? quand ? and combien ? can begin a question, as in English.

Où est-il ? Where is he ?

Combien coûte un aller-retour ? How much is a return ticket ?

In spoken French, though, they often come at the end of a question.

Ça coûte combien ? How much does it cost?

Vos amis arrivent quand ? When are your friends arriving?

Vous prenez des arrhes ? Do you take a deposit?

Est-ce qu'il est disponible pour le week-end du onze ? Is it available the weekend of the 11th?

On peut y aller à pied ? Can we walk there?