

Unit 18 - Interrogatives and Negatives

Lesson 3 - The mark of a question

Activity

- Write a statement twice on the board, but put a question mark at the end of the second one.
My mother told you to do that. My mother told you to do that?
- Ask a student to read each sentence.

Discuss

- We signal that the statement has become a question on paper with the question mark, but when it is spoken we signal that it is a question by changing the intonation of our voice.
- Questions can be made in three ways:
inverting the helping verb and subject
using an interrogative word and inversion
changing the intonation of the voice without inversion of the verb
- English puts its signal for a question at the end of the sentence, so if there is no interrogative word and no inversion, there is no warning until the end of the sentence that this is a question.
- Spanish and Latin have signals at the beginning of the sentence as well as the end to indicate that this is a question. You have a warning at the beginning that you will have to use a questioning intonation.
Spanish: inverted question mark at the beginning ¿ *qué es eso?*
Latin: -ne at the end of the first word, if there is no interrogative word. *Amatne ranas?*
- Why would inversion not work in Latin? There are no helping verbs. Everything is built into one form.

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Term
intonation