

LCSD05  
Clinical Linguistics and Phonetics

Question/negative formation

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Question Formation

- (1) Adding a questioning attitude to a statement using a rising intonation pattern

You are working today.

You are working today?

Polar Interrogatives (yes/no questions)

- (2) Subject-verb inversion

S V A  
You are working today

V- S -V A  
Are you working today?

Wh-questions (what, where, when, who, why, whose, which, how)

- (3) Wh-word + Subject-verb inversion

S V A  
You are working today

Q V- S -V A  
Where are you working today?

Tag questions

- (4) Repeat auxiliary verb + Subject as a tag

You're working today, **aren't you?**

You're not working today, **are you?**

You're working today, **are you?**

Stage 1 (1;0-1;6 yrs)

Mummy! (gloss: there's Mummy)

Mummy? (gloss: is that you Mummy?)

Stage 2 (1;6-2;0 yrs)

Start to use **wh**-words, but without modifying sentence structure

Teddy is hiding → <sup>Q</sup>Where <sup>X</sup>Teddy <sup>Y</sup>is hiding?

**Stage 3** (2;0-2;6 yrs)

Start to invert the Subject and Verb elements to form polar interrogatives correctly

V- S -V  
Is Teddy hiding? VS(X)

but Where Teddy is hiding?

**Stage 4** (2;6-3;0 yrs)

Correct formation of **wh**-questions

Q V- S -V QVS  
Where is Teddy hiding?

Correct formation of **tag** questions **tag**

Reflects mastery of the auxiliary verb system

**Negative sentences**

S V A  
You are working today

You are not working today

You aren't working today

S V O  
He ate the cake

S V O  
He didn't eat the cake

but

S V C S V C  
Jake is hungry → Jake isn't hungry

**Stage 1** (1;0-1;6)

Use single words: **no, allgone**

**Stage 2** (1;6-2;0)

Neg X X Neg Neg X  
not teddy sleeping no allgone juice

**Chart at clause level**

**Stage 3** (2;0-2;6)

X Neg Y  
That not my teddy

Neg X Y  
not like juice

**Chart at clause level**

**Stage 4** (2;6-3;0)

Begin to form negatives consistently using auxiliaries **within** the verb phrase

That not my teddy → That is'nt my teddy

Phrase: Pron<sup>0</sup>, Cop, NegV  
Word: 'nt

**Chart at phrase level**

Neg X Y

not like juice

S V O

I don't like juice

Phrase: Pron<sup>0</sup>, Aux<sup>0</sup>, NegV

Word: 'nt

**Chart at phrase level**