



# Punctuation: question marks (?)

Punctuation marks help the reader to clarify meaning and also to establish the tone of the text they are reading. They are therefore really important marks for you to learn how to use correctly in your writing.

Question marks are separation marks which are used to show when a direct question has been asked.

## 1. Question marks are placed at the end of a sentence which asks a question

### Examples

- Is your exam tomorrow or the day after?
- What are your plans for the future?

## 2. When you directly report another person's question you *do not* use a question mark

### Example

- My supervisor asked me when I expected to finish my thesis.

## Activity

Decide whether or not the following sentences require a question mark.

1. I didn't understand that concept in the lecture, did you.
2. Have you finished your assignment yet.
3. My lecturer asked me to resubmit my assignment.
4. I asked you to help me with this essay last week.

*Turn page for answers*



## Answers

1. ?
2. ?
3. no
4. no

### **Useful links** *(all open in a new window)*

There may be resources that have been created with your lecturers, addressing assignment tasks and topics specific to your courses. Follow the links below to find out:

[Business](#)

[Education, Arts and  
Social Sciences](#)

[Health Sciences](#)

[IT, Engineering and the  
Environment](#)