

# 7

## Property

### Embedded questions

Wh- questions; yes / no questions; questions with an infinitive

#### A Context listening

- 1 You are going to hear three people talk to Frank Jacobs, a real estate agent.  
What do you think Frank's three clients want?



1 Lydia \_\_\_\_\_



2 Robert \_\_\_\_\_



3 Alex \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 Listen and check if you were right.

- 3 Look at these questions. Listen to the conversations again and change the questions using the form that Frank and his clients used. Stop the recording when you need to.

**Frank's and Lydia's questions**

- 1 ~~Where can I find Mr. Jacobs?~~  
Could you tell me where I can find Mr. Jacobs?
- 2 Are you looking for a place to buy or to rent?

**Frank's and Robert's questions**

- 3 Where is your residence?
- 4 How quickly do you need to sell it?

**Frank's and Alex's questions**

- 5 How much renovation will the owner allow me to do?
- 6 Would the owner consider a lease that gives me the option to buy the building later?

- 4 Look at your answers in Exercise 3 and underline the correct words in italics.

- 1 In answers 1, 3, 4, and 6 the *first / second* verb comes before its subject.
- 2 In answers 2 and 5 the word order is *the same as / different from* the other answers.
- 3 In the conversation, Alex says, "I'm not sure what to do." This statement uses the *infinitive / past participle*.

- 5 Match the word you heard in the conversations with its meaning.

- |             |                                                         |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 mortgage  | a to make changes to improve a piece of property        |
| 2 realtor   | b a piece of property to live in                        |
| 3 renovate  | c the bank loan a person gets in order to buy property  |
| 4 residence | d a person who helps people buy, sell, or rent property |

## B Grammar

Sometimes a question is within a sentence or another question. This is called an embedded question. We often use embedded questions as a polite way of asking a question.

*I haven't found out **whether the bank will give me a mortgage or not**.*

*Could you tell me **what changes you have in mind**?*

### 1 Embedded Wh- questions

An embedded *Wh-* question uses the same word order as a statement, not a question. This means that the subject goes before the verb.

| Question                                                | Embedded question                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>What <b>did</b> the customer <b>want</b>?</i>        | <i>I wonder what the customer <b>wanted</b>.</i>              |
| <i>When <b>does</b> Jackie's flight <b>arrive</b>?</i>  | <i>Do you know when Jackie's flight <b>arrives</b>?</i>       |
| <i>Where <b>will</b> the conference <b>be held</b>?</i> | <i>I don't know where the conference <b>will be held</b>.</i> |
| <i>Why <b>hasn't</b> Ina <b>locked</b> the door?</i>    | <i>Can you tell me why Ina <b>hasn't locked</b> the door?</i> |
| <i>Who <b>is</b> Alfredo <b>inviting</b>?</i>           | <i>I wonder who Alfredo <b>is inviting</b>.</i>               |
| <i>How many books <b>did</b> you <b>sell</b>?</i>       | <i>I don't remember how many books you <b>sold</b>.</i>       |
| <i>How much <b>is</b> the rent?</i>                     | <i>Could you tell me how much the rent <b>is</b>?</i>         |
| <i>How <b>should</b> we <b>handle</b> this?</i>         | <i>Do you have any idea how we <b>should handle</b> this?</i> |
| <i>Whose car <b>can</b> I <b>take</b>?</i>              | <i>I would like to know whose car I <b>can take</b>.</i>      |

### 2 Embedded yes / no questions

An embedded *yes / no* question also uses the same word order as a statement, so the subject goes before the verb. We use *whether* and *if* in these questions, although each has a slightly different meaning. *Whether* indicates one of two possibilities and *if* indicates a condition. In some sentences we can use both.

***Should I bring** my sweater or a jacket?*

*I don't know **whether I should bring** my sweater or a jacket.*

***Are you coming** tonight?*

*Let me know **if you are coming** tonight.*

### 3 Embedded questions with an infinitive

An infinitive can replace the subject and verb after a *wh-* word or *whether* in the embedded question.

***How can I solve** this problem?*

*I don't know **how to solve** this problem.*

***Should I drive** or take the bus?*

*I wonder **whether to drive or take** the bus.*

There can be a difference in meaning.

*Do you know **where to buy** ink cartridges? (= Where can a person buy ink cartridges?)*

*Do you know **where I can buy** ink cartridges? (= Where can I buy ink cartridges?)*



## C Grammar exercises

### 1 Complete the conversations. Some sentences may have more than one possible answer.

- 1 "I'd like to know where Laurence Baker is giving his speech." "In the Hawking room."
- 2 "Do you have any idea \_\_\_\_\_ the flight from Boston is due to arrive?" "At 12:34 P.M."
- 3 "He couldn't tell me \_\_\_\_\_ the property taxes might be." "Maybe you could ask your accountant."
- 4 "Do you know \_\_\_\_\_ I can pay with a credit card?" "Yes, I think you can."
- 5 "I wonder \_\_\_\_\_ is going to present the awards." "Apparently it's someone quite famous."
- 6 "I didn't know \_\_\_\_\_ that noise was." "I think there was a problem with the heating system."
- 7 "Before the merger, I knew \_\_\_\_\_ people worked in our company." "I know what you mean. There are so many new employees that I can't count them all."
- 8 "She asked us \_\_\_\_\_ car was blocking the entrance." "Did you tell her it was mine?"

### 2 Lydia is looking around an apartment with Frank, the real estate agent. Complete the conversation with embedded questions, using the words in parentheses.

Lydia: OK, first I'd like to know 1 how much the rent is (be / how much / rent) for this apartment.

Frank: Well, it's quite expensive. It's \$1,300 a month.

Lydia: Oh, OK. But it is a really nice place. Could you tell me 2 \_\_\_\_\_ (available / be / when)?

Frank: It will be ready to move into at the beginning of next week. Let me know 3 \_\_\_\_\_ (if / want / accept) it.

Lydia: I have a few more questions before I make up my mind. First, do you know 4 \_\_\_\_\_ (cost / how much / electricity) every month?

Frank: I will have to check with the utilities company to find out 5 \_\_\_\_\_ (pay / how much / the last tenants).

Lydia: Also, I'd like to know 6 \_\_\_\_\_ (if / good school / be) nearby.

Frank: Yes, there is a good school a few blocks from here.

Lydia: Oh, good. Do you know 7 \_\_\_\_\_ (start / the school year / if) yet?

Frank: Yes, it started this week.

Lydia: Oh dear. I wonder 8 \_\_\_\_\_ (if / can / my children / start late).

Frank: Oh yes, I'm sure that won't be a problem.

Lydia: Good. I think I will take the apartment. Let me know 9 \_\_\_\_\_ (can / the contract / when / sign).

### 3 Rewrite the following embedded questions as direct questions.

1 Do you know what time to lock the front door? (*should*)

What time should I lock the front door?

2 I wonder whether to bring a coat or not. (*should*)

3 Can you tell me where to get a lunch voucher? (*can*)

4 I need to know who to include on the guest list. (*should*)

5 I don't know when to bring the files over to the main office. (*should*)

6 Let me know which color to paint the garage doors. (*want*)

### 4 Use words in the box and the given phrase to write about a property you would like to rent, buy, or sell.



if what how much where who  
when why which whose how many

1 Could you tell me how many rooms the house has?

2 I would like to know \_\_\_\_\_.

3 I need to know \_\_\_\_\_.

4 Would you know \_\_\_\_\_?

5 Do you have any idea \_\_\_\_\_?

6 I wonder \_\_\_\_\_.

## D Vocabulary

### Key Vocabulary

Read this paragraph about property and check your understanding of the words in bold.

For most people, buying a **residence** is the most important purchase they will make. Because it is so expensive to buy a single-family house or just an apartment within a **building**, buyers usually finance their purchase by making a **down payment** on a percentage of the agreed price and taking out a **mortgage** on the remaining balance. Most people arrange the buying and selling through a **real estate agent**, or **realtor**, who **receives a fee** or **commission**. Usually a prospective buyer **makes an offer** for a property and if they make a deal with the **owner**, he or she **accepts the offer**. Some people buy property as an investment. Typically they will **renovate** and then **rent out** or **lease** the property, either **furnished** or unfurnished, through a realtor. These include **commercial spaces** as well as residential housing, both downtown and in the **suburbs**. The **landlord** signs a contract with the tenant(s), which includes details about the rights and responsibilities of each party.



### Vocabulary note

The word *commercial* can be a noun or an adjective.  
The noun means an advertisement on the television or radio.  
*I thought the new **commercial** for Pizza Plaza was very funny.*  
The adjective means intended to make money, or related to a business intended to make money.  
*We sell both residential and **commercial** properties.*

### 1 Use the words in the box to complete Nancy's comments about moving.

apartment   commission   down payment   landlord  
mortgage   offer   owner   realtor   suburb   tenant

I've been living in a one bedroom **1** apartment downtown for a couple of years now, but I've decided to move. As a **2** \_\_\_\_\_ in the center of town, I have to pay a lot of rent and I've also had problems with the **3** \_\_\_\_\_. Last month I went to see a **4** \_\_\_\_\_ about buying my own house in a nice **5** \_\_\_\_\_ outside of downtown Austin. In the window of the real estate agency, I saw the house of my dreams and I have just enough money saved for a **6** \_\_\_\_\_, but I will have to get a **7** \_\_\_\_\_. I have made an **8** \_\_\_\_\_ to buy this property, and now I am waiting to hear if the **9** \_\_\_\_\_ will accept it. There are many costs when buying a house, but at least the **10** \_\_\_\_\_ the agent will get for selling this house will be paid by the seller.



2 Underline the correct word.

- 1 I want to rent office space in a building / builder / build near the business district.
- 2 We don't provide soft furnished / furnishings / furniture in our apartments.
- 3 The real estate agent has many rents / renters / rentals on his website that we could consider.
- 4 They were wondering if we had any houses that needed renovate / renovation / renovator.
- 5 My landlord owns / owner / ownership and rents out several buildings in this area.
- 6 Do you have any residents / residential / residences for sale in the La Paloma district?

3 Choose the correct words or phrases to complete the sentences.

- 1 I don't want to sell my property through a real estate agent because I don't want to pay the fee for this service. (real estate agent / fee)
- 2 Our rental business finds \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ who live overseas. (tenants / landlords)
- 3 We didn't have enough money for a \_\_\_\_\_, so they rejected our application for a \_\_\_\_\_. (mortgage / down payment)
- 4 We rent out both \_\_\_\_\_ for businesses as well as family \_\_\_\_\_. (commercial spaces / residences)
- 5 I grew up in the \_\_\_\_\_ of a large city, but now I like living downtown, so I rented an \_\_\_\_\_ in a large building near city hall. (apartment / suburbs)
- 6 I've decided to sign a \_\_\_\_\_ on a rental property for six months until I have the money to make an \_\_\_\_\_ on a place of my own. (lease / offer)