

UNIT 6: RESEARCH TOPICS IN MY FIELD

LESSON 1: RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Unit overview

- Making research questions
- Abstract structure
- Understanding bibliography format
- Presenting results in a paragraph

Lesson aims:

- Identify and correctly form open and closed questions
- Understand the purpose and structure of basic research questions
- Write basic research questions
- Notice the organization and punctuation in different citation styles

Lead-in: These are my answers. What are the questions?

1. *What words do we use to create questions? Example: What?*

.....
.....

2. *Your teacher will give you three answers about themselves. What are the questions?*
Example:

Answer: 2016

Question: When did you start working at the university?

.....
.....
.....

Grammar: Question forms

We often use questions when doing research, often as *research questions*. A research question is the main question that any research or study will address and hopefully answer.

Also, we use a variety of *open questions* or *closed questions* in questionnaires, interviews, and other methods for collecting data.

1. *Look at the following table, which shows examples of open and closed questions in different grammar structures.*

	CLOSED QUESTIONS Ask for specific information to check meaning.	OPEN QUESTIONS Ask for explanations and more detailed information.
PRESENT SIMPLE	Are you interested in...? Do you use ...?	Why are you interested in...? How often do you use ...?
PRESENT CONTINUOUS	Are you currently working ?	Why are you working there?
PAST SIMPLE	Were you at work? Did you have ...?	How difficult was ...? Why did you have ...?
PRESENT PERFECT	Have you ever seen ...?	How often have you seen ...?
MODALS	Will you go ...? Would you recommend ...?	Where will you go ? Who would you recommend ?

2. Complete the questions using the correct question word and verb form. Example:

..... you (like) coffee? **Do** you **like** coffee?

- a) your sister (study) English?
- b) do students usually (go) after class?
- c) she (come) to the meeting yesterday?
- d) time the class (start)?
- e) they (watch) the film last weekend?

3. Correct the mistakes in these questions. There is one mistake in each question.
Example:

What you did yesterday? What **did you do** yesterday?

- a) Do he like to read books?
- b) Where she go last summer?
- c) Is you happy in your class?
- d) When do starts the lesson?

4. *Work with a classmate and make questions for these answers. Example:*

- Did you study last night?
 - Yes, I studied last night. / Yes, I did.
- a) -?
- I usually walk to university.
- b) -?
- She went to the library.
- c) -?
- Because I was tired.

Academic Language: Research questions

1. *Match the topic with the most suitable research question.*

	1. Journalism	a) How does sleep affect cognitive performance?
	2. Agriculture	b) Are there any biases in how the media is covering this issue?
	3. Psychology	c) What are the effects of different irrigation methods on water use efficiency and crop yield?
	4. Fine Arts	d) Can we develop materials that can self-repair?
	5. Chemistry	e) How does the choice of medium (e.g., painting, sculpture, photography, digital media) affect the conceptual and visual outcomes of an artwork?

Listening: What makes a good research question?

1. *Watch the video by the Colorado State University Libraries and fill in the notes.*

Video: <https://youtu.be/3YHv3vFJMG0?si=eZC-UUR-zQ4NAxmZ&t=50>

According to the video...

- a) A good research question your paper
- b) A good research question is
- c) A bad research question is

- d) An open-ended question combines and
- e) A closed question has a or answer.
- f) Facts only =
- g) Facts & opinions =

Speaking

1. *Discuss the following questions in small groups.*

- a) Do you think research questions are difficult to create?
- b) Have you done any research during your time at university?
- c) What topic(s) are you interested in researching in your field?

Academic Language: References or Bibliography

When writing an academic paper you must **cite your sources of information** (usually, peer-reviewed journal articles). Also, you must include a section called ***References*** or ***Bibliography***, a list of the sources that are cited in the paper.

The reason for this is to **give credit** to the original author of an idea and **avoid plagiarizing**. Also, citations and references enhance the **credibility** of the work and provide the reader with information on how to find the original source if they want to find out more.

There are many different **citation styles**, and each has their own particular way of presenting the references. Some examples are [APA](#), [Chicago](#), and [Vancouver](#). Below you can see examples of how these citation styles present a source in a bibliography and which **fields** they are commonly used in. For more information about each click on the style name.

For **more information** about academic writing at University of Chile go to:

<https://aprendizaje.uchile.cl/recursos-para-leer-escribir-y-hablar-en-la-universidad/escribir/>

1. *Discuss with your classmates: **Which citation style is most commonly used in your field of study?***

- [APA 7th edition](#) (Psychology, Education, Social Science, Humanities, Architecture, Mass Communication)

He, Y., & Tsvetkova, M. (2023). A Method for Estimating Individual Socioeconomic Status of Twitter Users. *Sociological Methods & Research*, 54(1), 38-73.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00491241231168665>

- [Vancouver – NML](#) (Health Science, Dentistry)

Abrams AP, Thompson LA. Physiology of aging of older adults: systemic and oral health considerations. *Dent Clin North Am*. 2014;58(4):729–38.
doi:[10.1016/j.cden.2014.06.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cden.2014.06.002).

- [Chicago](#) (History, Humanities, Arts, Literature)

Lindquist, Benjamin. “The Art of Text-to-Speech.” *Critical Inquiry* 50, no. 2 (2023): 225–51. <https://doi.org/10.1086/727651>.

2. Identify the components of each source.

	APA 7 th Edition	Vancouver – NML	Chicago
Author(s)			
Date			
Title of source			
Title of publication			
Issue & volume numbers			
Page number(s)			

Did you know?

DOI means *Digital Object Identifier*. It is a string of numbers, letters and symbols used to uniquely identify an article or document, and to provide it with a permanent web address (URL).

Final Lesson Task

1. *In small groups, choose a topic in your field that you think is interesting.*

- Brainstorm ideas and create 3 or 4 research questions.
- Write your questions on the whiteboard or on a sheet of paper.
- Read other groups' research questions and notice if the questions are open-ended or closed questions.
- Discuss the questions with the whole class.

Exit Ticket

Can you do these things?

<input type="checkbox"/>	I can identify and correctly form open and closed questions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I can understand the purpose and structure of basic research questions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I can write basic research questions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I can notice the organization and punctuation in different citation styles

My Top 5 Words from this lesson:

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Homework: Self-study

[90 minutes per week]

1. **Online practice:** Question forms
<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/a1-a2-grammar/question-forms>