

Reporting yes or no questions

Yes or no questions are reported with 'if' or 'whether'. Note that we cannot use the words say and tell to report questions.

Study the examples given below.

'Are you a clever boy?' the stranger asked Harry. (Direct speech)

The stranger asked Harry if / whether he was a clever boy. (Indirect speech)

Some people ask, 'Is there a God?'

Some people ask whether there is a God.

Exercise

Report the following Yes or No questions.

1. The teacher asked Raju if he present the previous day.

- is
- has been
- had been

2. James asked me if I to a ZOO.

- have ever been

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ever went
had ever been

3. The master asked the girl if she
..... any difficulty solving
the problem.

has
had
was

4. The lady asked the servant if he
..... her letters from the
post office.

collects
collected
has collected
had collected

5. Tom asked Ben whether a boy
..... a chance to
whitewash a fence every day.

gets
got

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has got

6. I asked the boy whether his father
..... to the office.

has gone
had gone
went

7. The girl asked if she
home.

may go
went
might go

8. One of them asked if they
..... call the police.

may
can
should

9. Della asked Madam if she

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..... her hair.

- bought
- will buy
- would buy

10. The man asked the boy if he
..... that himself.

- cannot do
- could not do

Answers

1. The teacher asked Raju if he had been present the previous day.
2. James asked me if I had ever been to a zoo.
3. The master asked the girl if she had any difficulty solving the problem.
4. The lady asked the servant if he had collected her letters from the post office.
5. Tom asked Ben whether a boy got a chance to whitewash a fence every day.
6. I asked the boy whether his father had gone to the office.
7. The girl asked if she might go home.

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8. One of them asked if they should call the police.
9. Della asked Madam if she would buy her hair.
10. The man asked the boy if he could not do that himself.