

Where were you born?

Tones in asking for information

A

C72

Important
for listening

We pronounce an 'open' question differently from a 'check' question. An 'open' question is where we ask for information we didn't have before, and the voice usually goes down at the end. A 'check' question is where we make sure that the information we have is correct. The voice usually goes up at the end. Listen to the examples in this conversation.

- A: What's your **name**? ▾
 B: Sonia.
 A: And where were you **born**? ▾
 B: Surinam.
 A: Is that in South **America**? ▾
 B: Yes, that's right.
 A: And how long have you lived **here**? ▾
 B: Five years.
 A: I see. Are you **married**? ▾
 B: No, I'm not.
 A: And what do you **do**? ▾
 B: I'm a boxer.
 A: You're a **boxer**? ▾



B

C73

Important
for listening

Listen to A's second question in recording C72 again. The voice starts going down in the last word only, because this is the word the speaker is emphasising, or 'underlining'.

Where were you **born**? ▾

But we may 'underline' any of the words (see Units 49 to 53). Listen. Notice that the voice movement begins at the word with the underlining and continues to the end.

So your parents were born in Uruguay. And where were **you** born? ▾

Oh, so you weren't born here? Where **were** you born? ▾

So you were born in 1969? And **where** were you born? ▾

I know your parents live here, but were they **born** here? ▾

I know you were born here, but were your **parents** born here? ▾

My mother and father were born here. Were **your** parents born here? ▾



Note: In check questions the voice sometimes goes down before it goes up at the end. This is shown in the lines in the boxes.

Exer

56.1 Listen to

C74

EXAMPLE
Are you

- 1 Have :
- 2 What
- 3 What
- 4 Are yo

56.2 Listen. Af

C75

'underline

EXAMPLE
I'm from

1 So you

2 From F

3 So you

4 You're :

5 So you

Follow up

56.3 Look at the

C76

listen and

EXAMPLE

- a So you
- b Oh, se

1 a So you

b I have

2 a So Fre

b My fir

3 a So you

b So you

4 a I know

b She wa

5 a My gla

b Here a

Exercises

56.1 Listen to the questions below. Are they open or check? Draw a down or an up line in the boxes.

C74

EXAMPLE

Are you a student? ▮

1 Have you been to America? ▮

5 Can you drive? ▮

2 What do you study? ▮

6 Where's he going? ▮

3 What time is it? ▮

7 Do you like it? ▮

4 Are you over eighteen? ▮

56.2 Listen. After each sentence below, there is a question. Which word in the question does the speaker 'underline' with his voice? Underline the word. Then draw the voice movement line, starting in the box below the underlined word. The voice goes down in all of them.

C75

EXAMPLE

I'm from Canada. Where are you from?

1 So you're from Cuba. Where in Cuba?

2 From Havana? Interesting. And what's your name?

3 So you don't live in Cuba now? Where do you live?

4 You're a student? What do you study?

5 So you won't finish this year? When will you finish?

Follow up: Listen again and repeat.

56.3 Look at the questions in black below. Underline the word you think the speaker will emphasise. Then listen and check.

C76

EXAMPLE

a So your sister's a teacher? Where does she work?b Oh, so she doesn't work here? Where does she work?

1 a So you're married? Do you have any children?

b I have two daughters. Do you have any children?

2 a So French is your second language? What's your first language?

b My first language is Urdu. What's your first language?

3 a So you work Mondays to Saturdays? What do you do on Sundays?

b So your favourite day is Sunday? What do you do on Sundays?

4 a I know how he did it, but ... why did he do it?b She was going to do it, so ... why did he do it?

5 a My glasses aren't here, so ... where are my glasses?

b Here are your glasses, but ... where are my glasses?

Now go to Unit 17