



GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Reported Questions in Education

Education and School Life | Reporting survey and interview questions | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner. You may already use this grammar without noticing it.

No.	Question
1	What question might a teacher ask students before an exam?
2	What might a survey ask about homework?
3	What question could a student ask about feedback?
4	How could you report the question: 'Do you prefer online lessons?'

2. Grammar in context

Read the text. The bold phrases show the grammar used in a natural topic context.

Reporting a Student Survey

Our class completed a survey about school life. The first question asked **whether students preferred** online lessons or classroom lessons.

Another question asked **how much homework students received** each week. Several students also wanted to know **when teachers would give** feedback on practice papers.

In the final part, the survey asked **what changes students would make** to the timetable. Many learners said they needed more time for revision and independent study.

3. Notice the pattern

Use reported questions to report what someone asked. Use statement word order, not question word order.

Use	Form / signal	Example
Wh- questions	asked + wh- + subject + verb	She asked how much homework students received.
Yes/no questions	asked whether/if + subject + verb	He asked whether students preferred online lessons.
Word order	subject before verb	They asked when teachers would give feedback.
Backshift	will -> would; do -> did when needed	The survey asked what students would change.

4. Build accurate sentences

Complete each sentence using the grammar focus. Then write two examples of your own.

No.	Prompt	Use	Your answer
1	'Do students prefer online lessons?'	asked whether	
2	'How much homework do students receive?'	asked how much	
3	'When will teachers give feedback?'	wanted to know when	
4	'What changes would students make?'	asked what	

1. _____

2. _____

5. Use it in exam answers

Complete the tasks using the grammar focus naturally.

Task	What to do
Speaking	Report three questions from a class survey about school life.
Writing	Write a short report paragraph explaining what a student survey asked.
Reading	Underline the reported questions in the context text.

6. Common mistakes

Correct the mistakes.

No.	Mistake	Your correction
1	The survey asked do students prefer online lessons.	
2	She asked how much homework did students receive.	
3	Students wanted to know when would teachers give feedback.	
4	The survey asked what changes would students make.	

7. Topic discussion questions

Use these for pair work, small-group discussion, or speaking-test warm-up practice.

1. What questions should schools ask students more often?
2. Should students be asked to give feedback on the school's homework policy?
3. What would you ask in a survey about school life?
4. How can schools use survey results to improve lessons?

Reported Questions in Education

4. Build accurate sentences

1. The survey asked whether students preferred online lessons.
 2. The survey asked how much homework students received.
 3. Students wanted to know when teachers would give feedback.
 4. The survey asked what changes students would make.
- Own answers will vary. Check that the grammar focus is accurate and natural.

6. Common mistakes

1. The survey asked whether students preferred online lessons.
2. She asked how much homework students received.
3. Students wanted to know when teachers would give feedback.
4. The survey asked what changes students would make.

Notes for checking

1. Wh- questions: asked + wh- + subject + verb - She asked how much homework students received.
2. Yes/no questions: asked whether/if + subject + verb - He asked whether students preferred online lessons.
3. Word order: subject before verb - They asked when teachers would give feedback.
4. Backshift: will -> would; do -> did when needed - The survey asked what students would change.