

Absolute beginner #6 - Asking questions

ABE

LESSON CONTENT

● Hej!	Jag heter Joakim.
● Vad heter du?	Jag är 33 år gammal.
● Hur gammal är du?	Jag kommer från Sverige.
● Var kommer du ifrån?	

In this lesson, we will build on what we've already learned regarding sentence structure and transform those statements, which you should know by heart by now, into questions.

Question words

In the monologue, we got to know three question words:

203,180,198

Varifrån can be divided into two parts, turning a question like varifrån kommer du into var kommer du ifrån. To construct a question with these, we put them in the beginning of a sentence, followed by a verb. Remember Swedish has the so-called V2 rule, which states that the verb has to come in second place.

These three words are definitely not the only ones and a few others, which could come in handy, are:

194,181,209,171,188

Yes/no questions

Although it's important to put the verb in second place, a question without a question word needs the verb to go in

first place
, just like in English.

The one and only

Where other languages differentiate between how they address different sorts of people, Swedes address everyone with the pronoun

. There is no real equivalent to German

Sie
or French

Vous

in Swedish. It doesn't matter if you're talking to your naked best friend, the mailman, the prime minister or me. You will use first names and

with everyone – except for the royal family. We address them in a more traditional manner with the help of titles.

There is the pronoun (the second person plural *you*) which has been used in the past to address titleless people, a way for ads to address the potential customer, and to translate politeness from another language in literature and subtitles. Some younger people in service professions have started to use this analogous with polite pronouns in other languages. This is however not something that is appreciated by most Swedes.