



Why Does “Who Invented the Light Bulb?” Have No Auxiliary?

S06E17 | For teachers to adapt to their learners

Purpose

Because who is the subject of the question. It asks which person performed the action. When the question word itself is the subject, English normally does not add do, does or did .

Try this in your next lesson

Who broke the window?

Our suggested routine

For each question, ask: Is the question word doing the action? If yes, it is a subject question. If not, identify the real subject and notice the auxiliary.

- ☐ Who broke the window?
- ☐ Who did you see?
- ☐ What caused the problem?
- ☐ What did she change?

Answers and teacher guidance

Who broke the window? and What caused the problem? are subject questions. Who did you see? has you as subject; What did she change? has she as subject. The missing information is the object in those two questions.

After the attempt

What worked? What needs another model or a smaller step? Note one change for next time.

Read the full explanation and examples:
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