

Module 1: Leçons préliminaires
Topic 2 Content: Asking Questions

Instructions



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Topic 2 Content: Asking Questions

Intonation



INTONATION

Voice rises at the end of the sentence.

Tu as quel âge.
Tu as quel âge?

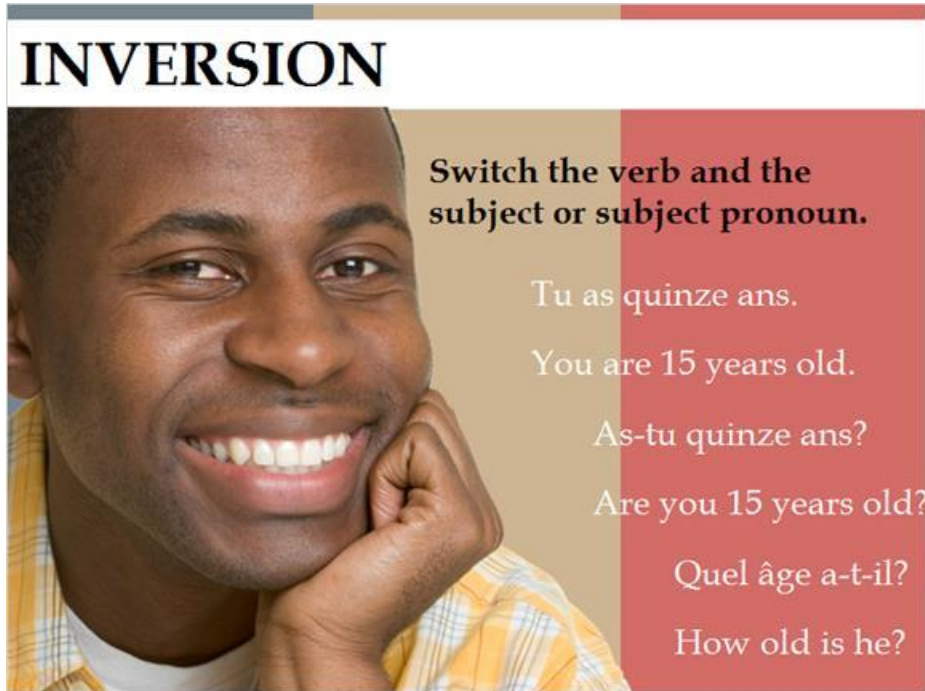
Elle a quatorze ans.
Elle a quatorze ans?

Intonation is when you use words that could represent a typical sentence, but your voice rises at the end, so that it sounds like you are asking a question. For example, a regular sentence is, “Tu as quel âge.” However, if you raise your voice at the end, the sentence would instead be, “Tu as quel âge?” In another example, a regular, declarative sentence is, “Elle a quatorze ans.” However, if you change your intonation at the end, the sentence becomes a question, “Elle a quatorze ans?”

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Inversion



INVERSION

Switch the verb and the subject or subject pronoun.

Tu as quinze ans.
You are 15 years old.

As-tu quinze ans?
Are you 15 years old?


Quel âge a-t-il?
How old is he?

Inversion happens when you switch the verb and the subject, or subject pronoun. For example, in the phrase, “Tu as quinze ans,” *tu* is the subject pronoun, and *as* is the verb. This statement translates to, “You are fifteen years old.” If you invert the verb and the subject pronoun, the statement becomes a question. Specifically it becomes, “As-tu quinze ans?” This translates to, “Are you fifteen years old?”

The next example is also an inversion, but there is an addition to the phrase, simply because it sounds better. Take a moment to examine the sentence, “Quel âge a-t-il?” This means, “How old is he?” Because it is awkward to say “a il,” you add a “t” between the two words, and it becomes “a-t-il.”

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Est-ce que



EST-CE QUE

Add in front of questions you can answer with *yes* or *no*.

Tu as quinze ans.

Est-ce que tu as quinze ans?

You are 15 years old.

Are you 15 years old?

Add “est-ce que” to the front of questions that you can answer with *yes* or *no*. For example, the statement, “Tu as quinze ans” would become the question, “Est-ce que tu as quinze ans?” The statement translates to “You are fifteen years old,” and the question translates to, “Are you fifteen years old?” Notice how you can answer the question with *yes* or *no*.