Fourth Year

Lecture Six

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Showing Interest and Surprise

We use ***echo questions*** and ***reply questions*** to express interest and surprise.

Echo question: Is made by repeating some of the informative(from information) words of the previous statement.

Examples:

1.

A:John has passed the computer exam

B: ***Passed the exam?*** Congratulations to him!

2.

A: Joan has been engaged.

B: ***Engaged?*** I'm very happy for her!

3.

A: The company manager has issued a bonus for the employees.

B: ***A bonus for the employees?*** They really deserve it!

4.

A: Jim has recovered from his common cold.

B: ***Recovered from his common cold?***That's great news.

5.

A: Mr. Smith has bought a luxury car.

B: ***Bought a luxury car?*** How rich he is!

Reply Question:Is made by asking a question starting with an auxiliary verb(auxiliary verb question) that matches the tense of the verb in the previous statement to show interest and surprise.

Examples:

1.

A: The Robinsons have moved to another suburb.

B: ***Have they?*** I will miss them a lot.

2.

A: James is going to buy a large house.

B: ***Is he***? I've heard that he is so wealthy!

3.

A: Jane joined the youth club.

B: ***Did she***? I'm very glad for her indeed!

4.

A: The police had arrived before the suspect fled the site.

B: ***Had they***? I wonder how quick a reaction they have!

5.

A: The English teacher was angry because the students weren't paying attention to him.

B: ***Was he***? Well, I don't blame him.