

ask [ɑːsk] v

## 1. 1) спрашивать

to ask a question - задать вопрос

to ask the way - спросить дорогу /как пройти/

to ask the time - спросить, который час

## 2) (about, after) осведомляться

he asked me about my work - он спросил меня о моей работе

to ask after smb.'s health - осведомиться о чьем-л. здоровье

## 3) (for) спрашивать, хотеть видеть (кого-л.); просить к телефону(кого-л.)

has anybody asked for me? - кто-нибудь спрашивал меня?

call Extension 6740 and ask for Miss Peters - позвоните по добавочному 6740 и спросите мисс Питерс

## 2. 1) (по)просить

to ask advice - просить совета

to ask for help [for money] - просить помощи [денег]

to ask smth. of /from/ smb. - просить что-л. у кого-л.

he asked a favour of me - он попросил меня об услуге

## 2) просить разрешения (сделать что-л.)

he asked to speak - он попросил слова

he asked to open the window - он попросил разрешения открыть окно

## 3. 1) требовать

it is too much to ask of me - вы слишком много хотите от меня

to ask (for) complete obedience - требовать беспрекословного повиновения

## 2) требоваться, быть необходимым; требовать

the job asks time - эта работа требует времени; для этой работы потребуется время

the experiment asks patience - для этого опыта требуется /нужно, необходимо/ терпение

## 4. приглашать (мж. ask out)

to ask smb. to dinner - пригласить кого-л. к обеду /на обед/

to ask smb. in [up, down] - попросить кого-л. войти [подняться вверх, спуститься]

## 5. назначать цену; запрашивать (какую-л. сумму)

he asked \$3,000 for the car - за этот автомобиль он просил 3000 долларов

◇ to ask the banns см. banns

ask me another - *амер.* не знаю, не спрашивай(те) меня; ≅ спросите меня что-нибудь полегче

to ask for the moon - требовать или желать невозможного

to ask for trouble, to ask for it - напрашиваться на неприятность; ≅ лезть на рожон

ask no questions and you will hear no lies - *посл.* не задавай вопросов и не услышишь лжи

## ask

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

ask [ask asks asked asking] verb, noun BrE [ɑːsk] <sup>4</sup> NAmE [æsk] <sup>4</sup>

verb

## QUESTION

## 1. intransitive, transitive to say or write sth in the form of a question, in order to get information

• How old are you— if you don't **mind me/my asking** ?• ~ **about sb/sth** He asked about her family.• ~ **sth** Can I **ask a question** ?

• Did you ask the price?

• **+ speech** 'Where are you going?' she asked.• ~ **sb + speech** 'Are you sure?' he asked her.• ~ **sb sth** She asked the students their names.• I often **get asked** that!• ~ **sb (about sth)** The interviewer asked me about my future plans.• ~ **where, what, etc...** He asked where I lived.• ~ **sb where, what, etc...** I had to ask the teacher what to do next.

• I was asked if/whether I could drive. You cannot say 'ask to sb': I asked to my friend what had happened.

## REQUEST

## 2. transitive to tell sb that you would like them to do sth or that you would like sth to happen

• ~ **sb to do sth** All the students were asked to complete a questionnaire.

• Eric asked me to marry him.

• ~ **whether, what, etc...** I asked whether they could change my ticket.• ~ **sb whether, what, etc...** She asked me if I would give her English lessons.• ~ **that...** (*formal*) She asked that she be kept informed of developments.• (*BrE also*) She asked that she should be kept informed.

## 3. intransitive, transitive to say that you would like sb to give you sth

• ~ **for sth** to ask for a job/a drink/an explanation

• I am writing to ask for some information about courses.

• ~ **sth** Why don't you ask his advice?• ~ **sb for sth** Why don't you ask him for his advice?

- ~ **sth of sb** Can I ask a favour of you?
- ~ **sb sth** Can I ask you a favour?

## PERMISSION

### 4. transitive to request permission to do sth

- ~ **to do sth** Did you ask to use the car?
- I asked to see the manager.
- ~ **if, whether, etc...** I'll ask if it's all right to park here.
- ~ **sb if, whether, etc...** She asked her boss whether she could have the day off.

## INVITE

### 5. transitive to invite sb

- ~ **sb (+ adv./prep.)** They've asked me to dinner.
- I didn't ask them in (= to come into the house) .
- We must ask the neighbours round (= to our house) .
- ~ **sb to do sth** She's asked him to come to the party.

## MONEY

### 6. transitive ~ sth (for sth) to request a particular amount of money for sth that you are selling

- **He's asking** £2 000 for the car.
- How much **were they asking** for their house?

## EXPECT/DEMAND

### 7. transitive to expect or demand sth

- ~ **sth** I know I'm asking a great deal.
- ~ **sth of sb** You're asking too much of him.
- ~ **sth to do sth** I know it's asking a lot to expect them to win again.

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we /they	ask
	BrE /ɑːsk/
	NAmE /æsk/
he / she /it	asks
	BrE /ɑːsks/
	NAmE /æskz/
past simple, past participle	asked
	BrE /ɑːskt/
	NAmE /æskt/
-ing form	asking
	BrE /ɑːskɪŋ/
	NAmE /æskɪŋ/

Word Origin:

Old English āscian, āhsian, āxian, of West Germanic origin.

Thesaurus:

**ask** verb

#### 1. T, I

- She asked where he lived.

**enquire /inquire** • • **demand** •

ask/enquire **about/after** sb/sth

ask/enquire/demand sth **of** sb

ask/enquire/demand **what/who/how...** etc.

ask/enquire/demand **angrily**

#### 2. I, T

- He asked me for a job.

**apply** • • **appeal** • • **claim** • • **beg** • • **plead** • |formal request • • **seek** • • **invite** • • **petition** • |especially journalism **call for sth** •

ask/apply/appeal/beg/plead/petition/call **for** sth

ask for/appeal for/claim/beg/seek/request/invite/call for sth **from** sb

ask/appeal for/beg/plead with/request/invite/petition/call for **sb to do sth**

#### 3. T

- Shall we ask Rachel and Mark to dinner?

**invite** •

ask/invite sb **to/for** sth

ask/invite sb **in/round/along/over/out**

ask/invite sb **to do sth**

**Ask or invite?** **Ask** is used especially to talk about informal social meetings. **Invite** can be used for a more formal event, such as a wedding or party. A written invitation may be given.

Synonyms:

## ask

### enquire • demand

These words all mean to say or write sth in the form of a question, in order to get information.

**ask** • to say or write sth in the form of a question, in order to get information: ▪ 'Where are you going?' she asked. ◇▪ She asked the students their names. ◇▪ Can I ▪ ask a question =?

**enquire /inquire** • (rather formal) to ask sb for information: ▪ I called the station to enquire about train times.

**demand** • to ask a question very firmly: ▪ 'And where have you been?' he demanded angrily.

to ask/enquire **about/after** sb/sth

to ask/enquire/demand sth **of** sb

to ask/enquire/demand **what/who/how**, etc.

to ask/enquire **politely**

to ask/enquire/demand **angrily**

### Synonyms :

#### **demand**

### require • expect • insist • ask

These words all mean to say that sb should do or have sth.

**demand** • to ask for sth very firmly; to say very firmly that sb should have or do sth: ▪ She demanded an immediate explanation.

**require** • [often passive] (rather formal) to make sb do or have sth, especially because it is necessary according to a law or set of rules or standards: ▪ All candidates will be required to take a short test.

**expect** • to demand that sb should do, have or be sth, especially because it is their duty or responsibility: ▪ I expect to be paid promptly for the work.

**insist** • to demand that sth happens or that sb agrees to do sth: ▪ I didn't want to go but he insisted. ◇▪ We ▪ insist on ▪ the highest standards at all times.

**ask** • to expect or demand sth: ▪ You're asking too much of him.

#### **demand, expect or ask?**

**Ask** is not as strong as **demand** or **expect**, both of which can be more like a command.

to demand/require/expect/ask sth **of/from** sb

to demand/require/expect/insist/ask **that...**

to require/expect/ask sb **to do sth**

to demand/require/expect/ask **a lot/too much/a great deal**

to **be too much to** expect/ask

### Example Bank:

- 'Do you still want to go out tonight?' she asked hopefully.
- 'How do you feel?' she asked softly.
- 'Oh, Sue went too, did she?' I asked innocently.
- 'Will he be all right?' Sabrina asked anxiously.
- He specifically asked for information on the subject.
- How old are you— if you don't mind my asking?
- I completely forgot to ask his name.
- I often get asked that.
- I wanted to ask him a question.
- I wondered how old she was but I didn't dare ask.
- I'm not asking for money.
- If you ask her nicely, she'll give you a hand.
- She longed to ask Mary if she knew what was wrong.
- Voters can legitimately ask whose interests are being served by the new legislation.
- We can legitimately ask what competence an official based in Whitehall has to solve the problems of rural Scotland.
- Who are you asking to the party?
- All the students were asked to complete a form.
- He asked me for a job yesterday.
- He's asking £2 000 for the car.
- I didn't ask them in.
- I know I'm asking a great deal.
- I was asked if/whether I could drive.
- I went up to the bar and asked for a beer.
- I'll ask if it's all right to park here.
- If you want anything, just ask.
- It's asking a lot to expect them to win again.
- May I ask what you mean by that?
- Shall we ask Jon and Alison to dinner at the weekend?
- She asked me if I would help her with her English.
- She asked where I lived.
- She's asked him to come to the party.
- We must ask the neighbours round.
- Why don't you ask David's advice?
- Why don't you ask your teacher for some of her thoughts on the matter?
- You're asking too much of him.

**Idioms:** ↑I ask you ▪ ↑ask for it ▪ ↑asking for it ▪ ↑asking for trouble ▪ ↑big ask ▪ ↑don't ask ▪ ↑don't ask me ▪ ↑for the asking ▪ ↑if you ask me  
**Derived** ↑ask after somebody ▪ ↑ask around ▪ ↑ask for somebody ▪ ↑ask somebody back ▪ ↑ask somebody out

noun

Word Origin:

Old English āscian, āhsian, āxian, of West Germanic origin.

**ask**

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **ask**<sup>1</sup> **S1 W1** /ɑːsk\$ æsk/ *BrE* *AmE* verb

[Language: Old English; Origin: ascian]

**1. QUESTION [intransitive and transitive]** to speak or write to someone in order to get an answer, information, or a solution:

- 'What's your name?' she asked.
- Don't ask him – he won't know.
- That kid's always asking awkward questions.

**ask who/what/where etc**

- I asked him where he lived.

**ask somebody something**

- We'll have to ask someone the way to the station.

**ask somebody if/whether**

- Go and ask Tom whether he's coming tonight.

**ask (somebody) about something**

- Visitors usually ask about the history of the castle.

**ask around (=ask in a lot of places or ask a lot of people)**

- I'll ask around, see if I can find you a place to stay.

**2. FOR HELP/ADVICE ETC [intransitive and transitive]** to make a request for help, advice, information etc:

- If you need anything, you only have to ask.

**ask somebody to do something**

- Ask John to mail those letters tomorrow.

**ask to do something**

- Karen asked to see the doctor.

**ask for**

- Some people find it difficult to ask for help.

**ask somebody for something**

- He repeatedly asked Bailey for the report.

**ask (somebody) if/whether you can do something**

- Ask your mom if you can come with us.

**ask that**

- Was it too much to ask that he be allowed some privacy?

**3. PRICE [transitive]** to want a particular amount of money for something you are selling:

- How much is he asking?

**ask \$50/\$1,000 etc for something**

- He's asking £2,000 for his car.
- They're asking a fortune for that house.

**4. INVITE [transitive usually + adverb/preposition]** to invite someone to your home, to go out with you etc

**ask somebody to do something**

- Let's ask them to have dinner with us some time.

**ask somebody out (=ask someone, especially someone of the opposite sex, to go to a film, a restaurant etc with you)**

- Jerry's too scared to ask her out.

**ask somebody in (=invite someone into your house, office etc)**

- Don't leave them standing on the doorstep – ask them in!

**ask somebody over/round (=invite someone to come to your home)**

- We must ask our new neighbours over for a drink.

**5. DEMAND [transitive]** if you ask something of someone, you want them to do it for you:

- It would be better if he cooperated, but perhaps I'm asking too much.

**ask something of somebody**

- You have no right to ask anything of me.
- Expecting the children to do an hour's homework after school is asking a lot of them.

**6. I/you can't/couldn't ask for a better something (also I/you can't/couldn't ask for more)** used to say that you are very happy with what you have or with a situation:

- I couldn't ask for a better boss.

**7. be asking for trouble** to do something that is very likely to have a bad effect or result:

- Saying that to a feminist is just asking for trouble.

**8. ask yourself something** to think carefully and honestly about something:

- You have to ask yourself where your responsibilities really lie.

• • •

**SPOKEN PHRASES**

9. **if you ask me** used to emphasize your own opinion:  
" He's just plain crazy, if you ask me."
10. **don't ask me** used to say you do not know the answer to something:  
" 'Where's she gone then?' 'Don't ask me!'"
11. **don't ask** used to say that something is too embarrassing or strange to explain:  
" 'What was that woman selling?' 'Don't ask.'"
12. **be asking for it** used to say that someone deserves something bad that happens to them:  
" It's his own fault he got hit – he was asking for it."
13. **be sb's for the asking** *informal* if something is yours for the asking, you can have it if you want it:  
" The job was hers for the asking."  
... ..

## COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 2)

### nouns

- **ask for help** Don't be afraid to ask for help.
- **ask for assistance** (=help or support) You can call this number to ask for assistance.
- **ask for advice /ask sb's advice** If you are in any doubt, ask for advice.
- **ask for information** I wrote asking for information about language classes.
- **ask for directions** (=instructions how to get from one place to another) At the station he asked for directions to the museum.
- **ask for details** Please ask for details of the full range of tickets available.
- **ask for sb's opinion** Dad always liked being asked for his opinion.
- **ask for sb's support** Labour councillors asked for our support for the proposal.
- **ask for permission** The two men entered without bothering to ask for permission.
- **ask for an explanation** When he asked for an explanation, no one could give him an answer.  
... ..

## THESAURUS

### ask a question

- **ask** to speak or write to someone to get an answer: Did you ask about the price? | They asked me a lot of questions.
- **inquire/enquire** /ɪn'kwaɪə \$-'kwaɪr/ *formal* to ask someone for information about something: I'm writing to inquire about the job that was advertised in yesterday's 'Times'.
- **demand** *especially written* to ask a question in a firm or angry way: 'Why didn't you call me?', she demanded.
- **interview** to ask someone questions, to find out if they are suitable for a job, or as part of a television or radio interview: When they interviewed me for the job, they didn't mention the salary. | David Letterman has interviewed all the stars.
- **poll** to officially ask a lot of people in order to find out their opinion on something: Over 1,000 people were polled for the report. | 64% of the people we polled said that they approved of the way the government had handled the crisis.

### to ask someone about a crime

- **question/interview** to ask someone a lot of questions in order to get information about a crime: He was arrested and questioned by the police. | Detectives are interviewing the father of the missing girl.
- **interrogate** to ask someone a lot of detailed questions, often in an aggressive way: The men were interrogated by the US authorities for over six hours.
- **cross-examine** to ask someone questions in court about the statements they made: A second lawyer began to cross-examine the witness.
- **somebody is helping the police with their inquiries** *formal* used in news reports when saying that the police are asking someone questions about a crime – especially when they think this person is guilty, but have not yet charged them: He is helping the police with their inquiries in connection with the murder of Diane Jones.

### to ask for something

- **ask for** to tell someone you want them to give you something: I'm going to ask for a pay rise.
- **order** to ask for food or drink in a restaurant: We ordered some more coffee. | Have you ordered yet?
- **demand** to ask for something in a firm way, insisting that someone gives you what you ask for: They're demanding immediate payment. | If the goods are faulty, you can demand a refund.
- **request** *formal* to ask for something: The pilot requested permission to land. | I enclose the information you requested.
- **beg/plead** to ask for something in an urgent way, because you want it very much and will be very unhappy if you do not get it: He begged me for some money. | I'm not going to plead for forgiveness.
- **nag/pester** to keep asking someone for something, in an annoying way: She keeps nagging me for a new phone. | People were pestering him for his autograph.

### ask after somebody *phrasal verb British English*

if you ask after someone, you want to know whether they are well, what they are doing etc:  
" I spoke to James today. He was asking after you."

### ask for somebody *phrasal verb*

if you ask for someone, you want to speak to them:  
" There's someone at the door asking for Dad."

## II. ask<sup>2</sup> *BrE* *AmE* *noun*

**a big ask** a situation in a sports competition when someone needs to get a lot of points or do something very difficult in order to win:  
" We need to win the next three games. It's a big ask, but I'm confident we can do it."

## ask

12500 **144**<sup>MCW</sup>

15000 **127**<sup>COCA</sup>

RANGE: **1k ASK** 298897

ask 95592

asked 152510  
unasked 118  
asking 32853  
asks 17824

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

32618 **631**<sup>61534</sup> *vvi*

22029 **1230**<sup>33866</sup> *vv0*

95 **74330**<sup>104</sup> *jj*

66 **92559**<sup>68</sup> *nn1*

11 **245251**<sup>11</sup> *nnu*

3 **287045**<sup>9</sup> *vdi*

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