

16th October 2024 OET Speaking – Questions

Closed questions:

(Yes or no answers)

Auxiliary	Subject	Verb	Other information
Do	you	have	any pain?
Does	your father	experience	headaches?
Have	you	noticed	any changes?
Did	your son	eat	lunch?

To be	Subject	Other information
Are	you	taking your medication?
Is	your father	diabetic?
Was	your son	nervous?
Were	you	in pain?

Quantitative/detailed questions:

(To ask for details)

Question word	Auxiliary	Subject	Verb	Other information
When	did	your pain	start?	
What	does	your father	do	for a living?
Which leg	did	the pain	affect	more?
How long	have	you	experienced	these symptoms?
How often	do	you	use	your medication?



Question word	To be	Subject	Other information
When	is	your appointment?	
What	were	your results?	
Which mole	is		more painful?
How long	were	you	in the hospital?
How often	are	you	visiting the physiotherapist?

Open questions:

(The patient can answer in any way they want)

Can you tell me a bit more about...?
What do you think about...?
What do you know about...?
How much do you know about...?
How can I help you?
Do you have any concerns about...?

D. Indicators for information gathering		
D1	facilitating the patient's narrative with active listening techniques, minimising interruption	
D2	using initially open questions, appropriately moving to closed questions	
D3	NOT using compound questions/leading questions	
D4	clarifying statements which are vague or need amplification	
D5	summarising information to encourage correction/invite further information	

We move from open to closed questions when...

- The patient is shy and we want to know more about their condition or symptoms
- To clarify information from a patient or to get more details about their condition
- To move from general information to specific details
- We want to know more information about what the patient said