

Embedded Questions

mbedded questions are questions within another statement or question. They function as noun clauses and as such should generally follow *statement*, not question, order.

What time is it? (question order)

I know what time is it. (Incorrect)

I know *what time it is.* (Statement order: S+ V)

Where did she go? (Question)
I don't know *where did she go*. (Incorrect)
I don't know *where she went*. (Correct)

What does he do for a living? (Question)
I wonder what does he do. (Incorrect)
I wonder what he does. (Correct)

Who is she? (Question)
Can you tell me *who is she*? (Incorrect)
Can you tell me *who she is*? (Correct)

When using *adjectives* as complements, it is okay to use question order for embedded questions:

Who's hungry? (Question)
I wonder who is hungry. (Okay)

In some cases, depending on the focus of the sentence, question order may be used:

Who is *the doctor*?

I know who the doctor is.

Who is a doctor?

I know who is a doctor (and who is not).