

# Interchange of Assertive and Interrogative Sentences

Assertive ————— Interrogative

- If the auxiliary or helping verb is not available. — Using Do/Does/Did

If we find that there is no helping verb in the assertive sentence, we will write interrogative sentence using “Do/Does/Did”.

**FOR EXAMPLE:**

**Assertive:** They play cricket.

**Interrogative:** Do they not play cricket?

**Assertive:** Manaj reads English newspaper.

**Interrogative:** Does not Manaj read English newspaper?

**Assertive:** He went to market.

**Interrogative:** Did he not go to market?

- Never ————— Ever

If we find the word “Never” in assertive sentence, we will write the word “Ever” instead of that word [Never] at the time of interrogative sentence.

**FOR EXAMPLE:**

**Assertive:** Ranjan never takes tea.

**Interrogative:** Does Ranjan ever take tea?

**Assertive:** She never loved me.

**Interrogative:** Did she love me?

**Assertive:** You can never forget her.

**Interrogative:** Can you ever forget her?

- **Nothing** ————— **Anything**

If we find the word “**Nothing**” in assertive sentence, we will write the word “**Anything**” instead of that word [**Nothing**] at the time of interrogative sentence.

**FOR EXAMPLE:**

**Assertive:** He said nothing about this matter.

**Interrogative:** Did he say anything about this matter?

**Assertive:** I have nothing to do.

**Interrogative:** Have you anything to do?

**Assertive:** There is nothing better than honesty.

**Interrogative:** Is there anything better than honesty?

- **Nothing but** ————— **Anything but/ what**

If we find “**Nothing but**” in assertive sentence, we will write “**Anything but**” or use “**What**” instead of [**Nothing but**] at the time of interrogative sentence.

**FOR EXAMPLE:**

**Assertive:** Our life is nothing but a walking shadow.

**Interrogative:** Is our life anything but a walking shadow?

**Or** What is our life but a walking shadow?

**Assertive:** He gave me nothing but love.

**Interrogative:** Did he give me anything but love?

**Or** What did he give me but love?

**Assertive:** Ramen wants nothing but a government job.

**Interrogative:** What does Ramen want but a government job?

- **Every + noun ——— Is there any + noun + who + negative**

If we find “**Every + noun**” in assertive sentence, we will write “**Is there any + noun + who+ negative**” at the time of interrogative sentence.

**FOR EXAMPLE:**

**Assertive:** Every man wishes to be happy.

**Interrogative:** Is there any man who does not wish to be happy?

**Assertive:** Every mother loves her child.

**Interrogative:** Is there any mother who does not love her child?

**Assertive:** Every man wishes to be powerful.

**Interrogative:** Is there any man who does not wish to be powerful?

- **Someone/ somebody/ everybody/ everyone/ no one/ nobody/ anybody/ anyone  
————— who (Affirmative–Negative) (Negative–Affirmative)**

If we find the words “**Someone/ somebody/ everybody/ everyone/ no one/ nobody/ anybody/ anyone**” in assertive sentence, we will write the word “**Who**” instead of those words [**Someone/ somebody/ everybody/ everyone/ no one/ nobody/ anybody/ anyone**] and make the affirmative sentence into negative and the negative into affirmative sentence at the time of interrogative sentence.

**FOR EXAMPLE:**

**Assertive:** Everybody loves her children.

**Interrogative:** Who does not love her children?

**Assertive:** Everybody has some needs.

**Interrogative:** Who has no needs?

**Assertive:** Nobody trusts a liar.

**Interrogative:** Who trusts a liar?

**Assertive:** No one can live alone.

**Interrogative:** Who can live alone?

- Most of the time we should make the assertive (affirmative) sentences negative interrogative if we want to make interrogative.

**FOR EXAMPLE:**

**Assertive:** He reads in this college.

**Interrogative:** Does he not read in this college?

**Assertive:** The sun rises in the east.

**Interrogative:** Does not the sun rise in the east?

**Assertive:** It was a good idea.

**Interrogative:** Was it not a good idea?

## SHORT CUT METHOD TO MEMORIZE THE RULES

### Interchange of Assertive and Interrogative Sentences

- | Assertive  | Interrogative                          |
|--|--|
| • Never _____  | • Ever                                 |
| • Nothing _____  | • Anything                             |
| • Nothing but _____  | • Anything but/ what                   |
| • Every + noun _____   | • Is there any + noun + who + negative |
| • Someone/ somebody/ everybody/ everyone/ no one/ nobody/ anybody/ anyone<br>_____ who (Affirmative–Negative) (Negative–Affirmative) |  |
| • If the auxiliary or helping verb is not available.—Using Do/Does/Did   |  |
| • Most of the time we should make the assertive (affirmative) sentence negative interrogative if we want to make interrogative.      |  |

Toyab Hossain  
Assistant English Teacher  
Cosmo School, Dhaka.