How to make questions in Spanish

1. In Spanish, you generally switch the <u>subject</u> and the <u>verb</u> when asking a question.

-sentence: Tú comes hamburguesas

-question: ¿Comes tú hamburguesas?

2. In Spanish, you can also add a "tag" word at the end of a regular sentence to turn it into a question. (TAG WORDS: "verdad" or "no")

-sentence: Tú comes hamburguesas

-question: Tú comes hamburguesas, ¿verdad? -or- ¿no?

Notice how using this style, the verb and subject don't switch!

3. When using a question word, the verb and subject are ALWAYS reversed (i.e. verb, then subject, not the other way around) ¿Cuándo vas tú a la escuela?

Follow this standard formula:

QUESTION WORD + VERB + SUBJECT + EVERYTHING ELSE

***WATCH OUT FOR "Cuánto/a" and "Cuántos/as", these words don't follow the same formula, but have their own:

QUESTION WORD + NOUN + VERB + SUBJECT + E.E.

Example: ¿Cuántas clases tienes tú?, ¿Cuántos ejercicios hace Paco en la mañana?

4. Question words with "SER"

Remember? "Ser" means "to be", here it is conjugated

Yo soy	Nosotros somos
Tú eres	Vosotros sois
Él/Ella/Ud. es	Ellos/Ellas/Uds. son

When using the following question words with the verb "ser", remember:

- 1. ¿Cómo + ser...? is used when talking about what something or someone is like. For example, ¿Cómo eres tú? What are you like? ¿Cómo es la comida? What is the food like?
- 2. ¿Qué + ser...? is used when asking about information that is unknown to the person asking the question. For example, ¿Qué es esto? What is this? The person asking doesn't know anything about what "this" is. ¿Qué es Avatar? What is Avatar? The person asking doesn't know what Avatar is, for all they know it could be a movie, a song, a person, or a place...no clue!
- 3. ¿Cuál + ser...? is used when asking about information from a LIST of things. For example, ¿Cuál es la fecha? What's the date? The person asking is aware of what a date is, but they are asking, out of the list of dates available, which one is it today? ¿Cuál es tu número de teléfono? What's your phone number? The person asking is aware of what a phone number is, but they are asking, out of all the phone numbers in the world, which one is yours?