Echo questions

Introduction

"I asked Joyce to marry me."   "You asked her to *marry* you?!"

Definition

These are responses, in the form of questions, to being asked or told something.

Introduction

There are two main forms:

Repetition	Subject + verb + question word
A: "I just heard that Sam got the manager's job." B: "He got the *manager*'s job?"	A: "Carol's gone to Paris to see a client." B: "She's gone *where*?" [alternative to "Where has she gone?"]

Uses

Use	Examples

To show surprise, shock or disbelief	"Did you know it's raining?" "It's *raining*?! Not again!"
Note that we stress the question word and often a key word when repeating a phrase.	"Your visitors will be here in 10 minutes." "They'll be here *when*?! But I'm not ready yet." "Did you know Simon's back from his trip?" "He's *back*? I thought he was going for longer." "Jamie went skiing and broke an arm and a leg." "He broke an arm *and* a leg?!"
To ask for confirmation if we didn't hear or understand something	"This is Nicky's pen. Can you give it back to her?" "It's *whose*?" "Myles has finished the report. It's taken ages." "He's *finished* it?"

Examples

"I saw Hannah and she's getting married next week." "*Anna's getting married*?" "No, not Anna - Hannah!"

"I gave the file to Keith." "You gave it to *who*?"

 "They've already got four children and now they're expecting twins." **"*Twins*?!"**

"We visited a remote village in the desert to see an ancient monument. The only way to get there was on camels.""You got there *how*?!"