

Rhetorical Questions

A rhetorical question is a question asked in order to create a dramatic effect or to make a point rather than to get an answer.

For example: "How could I be so stupid?"

Where as: "Do you have a cat?" needs an answer and therefor is not a rhetorical question.

Read and decide which of these are rhetorical questions:

- a) Don't you ever think about anyone else?
- b) Don't you want any cake?
- c) Are you tired?
- d) Are you interested in having more time to relax?
- e) Are you expecting visitors?
- f) Do you want your children to live in poverty?
- g) When will this madness end?
- h) When are you going to school?
- i) If we don't stop now, what will be next?

Now think of some rhetorical questions for these situations.

- 1) You want your family to let you watch your favourite TV programme.

For Example: Have you any idea how educational Spongebob Squarepants is?

- 2) You forgot your homework and you don't want the teacher to be angry.

- 3) You want your parents to let you stay out late at night.

Extension task = Choose your own topics and come up with rhetorical questions for them