



## Exceptional Expressions For Everyday Events

Everyday learning in the classroom requires the asking of a variety of questions. A teacher asks students to answer a difficult math problem. Students ask the teacher to clarify instructions for a writing assignment. A student may ask another student about a homework assignment.

As illustrated in the word web, the word **ask** can be used in a multitude of ways. How the word is used in a sentence provides the framework for the meaning of the word. These different uses should be emphasized for English Language Learners.

Some synonyms of **ask** can imply emotion or meaning. For example, a person begging for money, or mercy, indicates desperation. To merely ask for something doesn't suggest an emotion. **Ask** is a neutral term. Look at the synonyms of **ask** and see if there are other words that convey feelings or special meaning.

## Follow-Ups

- When is asking actually a command as opposed to a request?
- Is asking students to do an activity different from requiring them to do one?
- What is the difference between proposing and inviting?
- How is inquiring different from demanding?
- What is the difference between soliciting and begging?

## The Spanish Connection

The word **ask** comes from an Old English word, *ascian*, for “to seek.” The Spanish word for to **ask** is *preguntar*. **Ask** and *preguntar* are not cognates. However, some synonyms for **ask** do have Spanish cognates.

## Word Changes

- **Ask** is also a noun, but that usage is not very common. Some synonyms of **ask** can be used as verbs and as nouns. For example, **question**, **query**, **offer**, and **demand** are often used both as nouns and verbs.
- The idiom “asking for the moon” describes an impossible request or demand.



# Ask



## Ask

### Ask as in to make a request

- request
- beg
- petition
- seek
- need
- call
- beseech
- solicit

### Ask as in to order

- demand
- expect

### Ask as in to invite

- invite
- propose
- offer

### Ask as in to question

- question
- query
- inquire
- interview
- probe
- quiz
- interrogate

### IDIOMS

- Some one is asking for it (trouble)
- Asking for the moon
- Put through the ringer
- Don't ask me (why, how, etc.)
- Couldn't ask for more
- The third degree
- That's asking a lot (of me)

### COMMON PHRASES

- Ask about/around
- Ask for
- Ask me
- All I ask of you
- Ask out
- Ask me anything

### THE SPANISH CONNECTION

- petition / petición
- solicit / solicitar
- question / cuestión
- inquire / preguntar
- interrogate / interrogar

### COMMON QUOTATIONS

"Ask me no questions, and I'll tell you no lies."  
 "Ask, and you shall receive."  
 "Be careful what you ask for... you just might get more than you bargained for."





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