Question Marks (?)

Question marks are used at the end of a direct question. They are also used to show doubt.

Rule #1:

Use a question mark after a direct question or a direct quotation. When a statement contains a question, end the statement with a question mark. Separate the statement from the question with a comma, dash, or colon. DO NOT use a question mark after an indirect question, an indirect quotation, or a polite request.

Examples of Rule #1:

- Did you register the new software program?
- The support technician asked, "Did you register the new software program?"
- New employees attend an orientation—don't they?
- She asked where we keep our files.
- He stated that he would be on time for all future meetings.
- May I have the manual you borrowed last week.

Rule #2:

Use a question mark, in parentheses, to express doubt.

Example of Rule #2:

- We plan to have a huge party on his August 9 (?) birthday.

Rule #3:

Use a question mark between parts of a short series of questions.

Example of Rule #3:

- Should we hold the company picnic at the city park? on campus?