

The whole sentence is a question, so it ends with a question mark after the quotation. The quotation is actually **not** a question, so the question mark isn't part of it.

STATEMENT

Sam asked Graham, "how do I open the box?"

The main sentence is a statement, not a question: Sam asked Kelly something. That means that there can't be a question mark that applies to the sentence as a whole. The quotation, however, **is** a question, so the question mark is part of it. Since you can't usually have a question mark **and** a period, this sentence ends after the closing quotation mark.

If, however, you're using a parenthetical citation style like MLA, put the citation after the closing quotation mark and a period at the end.

Sam asked Graham, "how do I open the box?" (Wilcox 43).

Practice

Make any necessary corrections in the following sentences.

1. They want to know are you going to the movies.
2. She wondered "why does this always happen to me."
3. Some critics think the story asks, "Can we love twice" (Smith 34)?
4. He said I need to know who is going to the store with me.
5. She will wonder did I do the homework.
6. We did believe he was telling the truth.
7. He asked would I be at the meeting.
8. My dad asked how are you getting there?
9. Tony wanted to know what did I think about the game.
10. Her motto is "If not me, then who? If not now, then when"?

Possible Answers

1. They want to know **if you are** going to the movies.
2. She wondered "why does this always happen to me?"
3. Some critics think the story asks, "Can we love twice?" (Smith 34).
4. He said, "I need to know who is going to the store with me."
5. She will wonder **if I did** the homework.
6. We did believe he was telling the truth. (No change)
7. He asked **whether I would be** at the meeting.
8. My dad asked **how we were** getting there.
9. Tony wanted to know **what I thought** about the game.
10. Her motto is "If not me, then who? If not now, then when?"