



# How to draft questions for vulnerable witnesses

1. **Write the question out verbatim as you would like to ask it:** "I put it to you Miss Smith that you did go to the flat with Mr Terrance Brown and Mr Gareth White on Halloween because you wanted the vodka, because you do like vodka, don't you".
2. **Take out the unnecessary preface:** ~~I put it to you Miss Smith that~~ you did go to the flat with Mr Terrance Brown and Mr Gareth White on Halloween because you wanted the vodka, because you do like vodka, don't you.
3. **Check you have started with their proper name, if appropriate, and that avoid pronouns – use names agreed at GRH:** ~~Miss Smith~~ Alex you did go to the flat with ~~Mr Terrance Brown~~ Terry and ~~Mr Gareth White~~ Garry on Halloween because you wanted the vodka, because you do like vodka, don't you?
4. **Take the two parts of the question apart:** Alex you did go to the flat with Terry and Garry on Halloween because you wanted the vodka?  
...because you do like vodka, don't you?
5. **Take the inflected statement and turn it into a proper question, so that:** Alex ~~you did~~ go to the flat with Terry and Garry on Halloween because you wanted the vodka? **Becomes:** Alex *did you*, go to the flat with Terry and Gary on Halloween because you wanted the vodka?
6. **Take the tag from the end of the question and use it at the start of the question:** ...because you do like vodka, don't you? **Becomes:** Do you like vodka? Did you go to the flat because you wanted the vodka?
7. **Check whether you have multiple issues in one question:** Alex **did you go to the flat** **with Terry and Garry** on **Halloween** because you wanted the vodka?  
Did you go to the flat?  
Did you go with anyone else?  
Did you go on Halloween?  
Did you go because you wanted the vodka?
8. **Check, now that you have distilled the question, whether you need ask it at all:** Has the witness already said this in the ABE? Has the witness already made such comments elsewhere and it can be dealt with by admission?