

All progress is dependent upon us asking questions

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Roy Lilley pointed to a fascinating article in the [Harvard Business Review](#) from 2015 this morning.

In it, Tom Pohlman and Neethi Mary Thomas note that in a cohort of adults they surveyed:

Those with children estimated that 70-80% of their kids' dialogues with others were comprised of questions. But those same clients said that only 15-25% of their own interactions consisted of questions.

The obvious question is, why is that?

The authors dedicate their note to a discussion of types of question, but for me their most pertinent comment was:

Think back to your time growing up and in school. Chances are you received the most recognition or reward when you got the correct answers. Later in life, that incentive continues. At work, we often reward those who answer questions, not those who ask them. Questioning conventional wisdom can even lead to being sidelined, isolated, or considered a threat.

That is so true.

What we live in is a world that encourages non-questioning compliance. That is exactly what [Hugh Pilli](#), the chief economist of the Bank of England, demanded of the UK population yesterday when he said that we must all accept that we are getting poorer. Doing so, he was simply the heir to Margaret Thatcher and her claim that 'there is no alternative'.

That is not true. There is always an alternative. The whole purpose of this blog is to ask questions that suggest that those alternatives are not only possible, but are achievable.

If this makes this blog a threat, so be it.

But I will keep on asking the questions.

I would encourage everyone to do so. All progress is dependent upon us doing so.