

# Wh- Questions

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# Grammar Notes

## WH- QUESTIONS

### A. Introduction

Questions are a common part of conversations in English.  
It is important to learn how to ask and answer different types of questions.

There are two main types of questions:

- Yes/No Questions (e.g., *Do you like pizza?*)
- Wh- Questions (e.g., *What kind of pizza do you like?*)

| <b>Key</b>    |                       |                                                                               |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Symbol</b> | <b>Part of Speech</b> | <b>Meaning</b>                                                                |
| <b>Wh-</b>    | Wh- word              | a question word<br>( <i>who, what, where, when, etc.</i> )                    |
| <b>Aux</b>    | Auxiliary verb        | a word that "helps" the main verb<br>( <i>do, be, have, will, can, etc.</i> ) |
| <b>S</b>      | Subject               | the person or thing doing the action                                          |
| <b>V</b>      | Verb                  | the action                                                                    |
| <b>O</b>      | Object                | the person or thing receiving the action                                      |

## Grammar Notes cont.

### B. Wh- Questions

Wh- questions are very common in English.  
We use Wh- words to ask about a person, place, time, etc.

Wh- words begin with the letters "wh" (e.g., **who**, **where**, **when**, etc.).  
The only Wh- word that doesn't begin with those letters is **how**.

Answers are usually complete sentences  
that focus on the Wh- word from the question.

#### 1. Wh- Questions with Be

The usual Wh- question pattern with the Be verb is:

#### **Wh- word + V + S (+O)**

| Wh- Word     | Use        | Example Question                      | Example Answer                                    |
|--------------|------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Who</b>   | person     | Who is the man in the blue shirt?     | He's our new teacher.                             |
| <b>What</b>  | thing      | What is that?                         | It's a new game.                                  |
| <b>Where</b> | place      | Where is your school?                 | My school is on Smith Street.                     |
| <b>When</b>  | time       | When is your birthday?                | It's April 25.                                    |
| <b>Why</b>   | reason     | Why are they late?                    | They are late because they slept in this morning. |
| <b>How</b>   | method/way | How is your new car?                  | It is very fast.                                  |
| <b>Which</b> | choice     | Which is better, the cake or the pie? | The cake is better than the pie.                  |
| <b>Whose</b> | possession | Whose jacket is this?                 | It's Mike's jacket.                               |



## Grammar Notes cont.

### B. Wh- Questions cont.

#### 2. Wh- Questions with All Other Verbs

For all other verbs besides the Be verb, the Wh- question pattern is:

#### **Wh- word + Aux + S + V (+O)**

| Wh- Word     | Use        | Example Question                                 | Example Answer                       |
|--------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Who</b>   | person     | Who are you talking to now?                      | I'm talking to my boyfriend.         |
| <b>What</b>  | thing      | What did Wendy do last weekend?                  | She went to a party.                 |
| <b>Where</b> | place      | Where do they live?                              | They live on Johnson Street.         |
| <b>When</b>  | time       | When do you need this report?                    | I need it by 5:00 pm.                |
| <b>Why</b>   | reason     | Why did you quit your job?                       | I quit because it was too stressful. |
| <b>How</b>   | method/way | How can we fix this?                             | We can call a plumber.               |
| <b>Which</b> | choice     | Which does he prefer, horror movies or comedies? | He prefers comedies.                 |
| <b>Whose</b> | possession | Whose sunglasses did you borrow?                 | I borrowed my brother's sunglasses.  |

#### **Did You Know?**

The verbs in Wh- Questions can be in any tense. Which tenses are used in each of the examples above: the *simple present*, *present progressive*, or *simple past*?

# Grammar Notes cont.

## C. Notes

### Note #1

In the simple present tense, the auxiliaries *do* and *be* end with **-s** in the third person singular form (with *he*, *she*, *it*, singular count nouns, and non-count nouns).

- When **does** she work out?
- How **is** your son feeling today?

### Note #2

Wh- words usually act as the **object** of a sentence.

**Wh- + Aux + S + V**

| Question                                 | Answer                              |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| What does she drive?<br><b>O Aux S V</b> | She drives a truck.<br><b>S V O</b> |

However, some Wh- words, especially *who* and *what*, can also act as **subjects**.

**Wh- + V (+ O)**

| Question                              | Answer                                 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Who called?<br><b>S V</b>             | Maria called.<br><b>S V</b>            |
| What made that noise?<br><b>S V O</b> | A cat made that noise.<br><b>S V O</b> |

### Note #3

Questions with **how** can ask about the way someone is feeling. *How* questions are very common in conversations.

| Question           | Answer                     |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| How are you?       | I'm fine, thanks.          |
| How is he feeling? | He's feeling better today. |
| How does she feel? | She's nervous.             |

**How** is also often used with another word such as *often* (to ask about frequency), *much* (to ask about cost), or *many* (to ask about an amount).

| Question                   | Answer               |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| How often do you study?    | I study every night. |
| How much is this dress?    | It's \$85.00.        |
| How many dogs do you have? | I have three dogs.   |



## Grammar Notes cont.

### C. Notes cont.

#### Note #4

**What** is often used with another word such as *time* (to ask about clock time).

| Question                        | Answer             |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| What time is it?                | It's 1:15 pm.      |
| What time does the class start? | It starts at 9:00. |

**What** is also used before another noun to ask about a choice. (**What** and **which** have the same meaning in the examples below.)

| Question                          | Answer                                 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| What movie do you want to watch?  | Let's watch the new <i>Star Wars</i> . |
| Which movie do you want to watch? | Let's watch the new <i>Star Wars</i> . |
| What kind of pizza do you want?   | Pepperoni, please.                     |
| Which kind of pizza do you want?  | Pepperoni, please.                     |

#### Note #5

**Whose** and **who's** sound the same but have different meanings.

**Whose** means possession (something *belongs* to someone), while **who's** means *who is* or *who has*.

| Question                   | Answer            |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Whose car is that?         | It's Doug's car.  |
| Who's coming to the party? | Silvia is coming. |

## Exercise 1

### WH- WORDS & USES

Draw a line between the Wh- word and its most common use.

- |          |               |
|----------|---------------|
| 1. when  | a) place      |
| 2. where | b) reason     |
| 3. what  | c) time       |
| 4. whose | d) method     |
| 5. how   | e) choice     |
| 6. who   | f) person     |
| 7. why   | g) possession |
| 8. which | h) thing      |

## Exercise 2

### COMPLETE THE QUESTION

Choose the best Wh- word for each question. Use each Wh- word only once.

Ex. When is your birthday?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ do you live?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ happened to your leg?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ blue hat is this?
4. \_\_\_\_\_ are you feeling today?
5. \_\_\_\_\_ called while I was away?
6. \_\_\_\_\_ do you prefer, cats or dogs?
7. \_\_\_\_\_ did he quit his job?

#### Wh- Words

- who
- what
- where
- when
- why
- how
- which
- whose

## Exercise 3

### MATCHUP

Match the questions with the best answers.

- |          |                                                      |                                          |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <u>g</u> | 1. Why did you call me?                              | a) That's my uncle.                      |
| _____    | 2. How did you unlock the door?                      | b) I can play the violin.                |
| _____    | 3. Who is the man in the black jacket?               | c) I like orange juice.                  |
| _____    | 4. Whose glasses are these?                          | d) I lived in Taiwan when I was a child. |
| _____    | 5. When is your birthday?                            | e) I used my key.                        |
| _____    | 6. What instrument can you play?                     | f) They're mine.                         |
| _____    | 7. Where did you grow up?                            | g) I needed help with my homework.       |
| _____    | 8. Which do you prefer, apple juice or orange juice? | h) It's in October.                      |

## Exercise 4

### QUESTION CARDS

Time for a chat! Your teacher will give you some question cards. Take turns picking up a card and reading the question out loud to your partner(s). Answer using complete sentences.

**Example:**

- A: What time do you usually wake up?
- B: I usually wake up at 7:00 am during the week. On weekends, I wake up at 9:00.



## Exercise 5

### WRITE THE QUESTION

Write questions for the following answers.

Ex. *When do you go to the gym?*

I go to the gym every weeknight.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

I usually eat a sandwich for lunch.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

My daughter is three years old.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

The hotel costs \$150 a night.

4. \_\_\_\_\_

She is the teacher.

5. \_\_\_\_\_

They are from Korea.

6. \_\_\_\_\_

The class starts at 1:00 pm.

7. \_\_\_\_\_

He is a butcher.

8. \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer coffee.

9. \_\_\_\_\_

That is Sarah's pen.

10. \_\_\_\_\_

I finished my homework two days ago.

## Exercise 6

### FIND THE ERROR

Find one error in each of the questions AND answers below.

| #  | Questions & Answers                                           | Corrections                                                                           |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ex | Q: What did Robert last Sunday?<br>A: He going to the movies. | <u>What did Robert <b>do</b> last Sunday?</u><br><u>He <b>went</b> to the movies.</u> |
| 1  | Q: Why work Maria two jobs?<br>A: She need the money.         | _____<br>_____<br>_____                                                               |
| 2  | Q: What the weather like yesterday?<br>A: It is cold.         | _____<br>_____<br>_____                                                               |
| 3  | Q: Whose our teacher?<br>A: Our teacher is Mr. Johnson's.     | _____<br>_____<br>_____                                                               |
| 4  | Q: When did come Chang to class?<br>A: He come at 3:00.       | _____<br>_____<br>_____                                                               |



## Exercise 6 cont.

| # | Questions & Answers                                                                                               | Corrections             |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5 | <p>Q: How often can she attends these meetings?</p> <p>A: She can attends every Tuesday and Thursday morning.</p> | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
| 6 | <p>Q: Where were he yesterday?</p> <p>A: I'm not sure because I no see him.</p>                                   | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
| 7 | <p>Q: Why do you prefer, chocolate or vanilla ice cream?</p> <p>A: I prefers chocolate.</p>                       | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
| 8 | <p>Q: How change you this clock?</p> <p>A: You holding down the button on the right.</p>                          | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |

## Exercise 7

### LISTENING

Listen to the questions.

Circle the best response for each question.

1. a) It's at 2:00.  
b) It's in three days.  
c) It's 5:30.
2. a) That is John's bag.  
b) That is John.  
c) That is Johns bag.
3. a) I took the bus.  
b) I get good grades.  
c) I know how.
4. a) Luis is in my class.  
b) Julia sits beside me.  
c) Abdul sit next to me.
5. a) It's at the bank.  
b) It's around the corner.  
c) It's a place.
6. a) I saw *Wonder Woman*.  
b) I went to a movie.  
c) I went out last night.
7. a) I want to get a good job.  
b) I asked why.  
c) I am studying now.
8. a) He is my brother.  
b) He is lazy.  
c) He works at the mall.
9. a) I can call you at 8:00.  
b) I didn't call her.  
c) I hurt my back.
10. a) I like animals.  
b) I love elephants.  
c) I have two pets.

## Exercise 8

### PARTY PLANNING

Imagine you are planning a party with a partner.  
 Write a dialogue using Wh- questions.  
 Then perform your dialogue for the class.

**Example:**

A: Did you hear that Alex is turning 30 on Saturday?  
 B: Really? Let's throw a party for him.  
 A: Okay! Who should we invite?  
 (etc.)

**Talk about:**

- reason/theme
- guest list
- food
- decorations
- music
- activities

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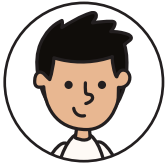
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## Exercise 9

### REVIEW

Read the story.  
Then write the missing questions and answers in the boxes below.



This is Lee. Lee is 17 years old. He lives in San Diego, California. Lee likes watching movies and playing the guitar. He likes playing the guitar much better than playing the piano. Lee also goes surfing every day. He often uses his brother's surfboard.

| # | Question                                               | Answer                                                     |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 |                                                        | He is 17 years old.                                        |
| 2 | Where does Lee live?                                   |                                                            |
| 3 |                                                        | He likes watching movies, playing the guitar, and surfing. |
| 4 | Which does he prefer to play, the guitar or the piano? |                                                            |
| 5 |                                                        | He goes surfing every day.                                 |
| 6 | Whose surfboard does Lee often use?                    |                                                            |

## Exercise 10

### QUIZ

Circle the correct answer.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ does Mateo work?
  - a) What
  - b) Where
  - c) Which
2. \_\_\_\_\_ do you like better, Fridays or Saturdays?
  - a) Which
  - b) How
  - c) Whose
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is your new school?
  - a) Who
  - b) Why
  - c) How
4. \_\_\_\_\_ coat is on the floor?
  - a) When
  - b) Whose
  - c) How
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is your next day off?
  - a) How
  - b) Where
  - c) When
6. Where \_\_\_\_\_ she live?
  - a) does
  - b) do
  - c) is
7. How much \_\_\_\_\_ a cup of coffee at the new coffee shop?
  - a) costs
  - b) does
  - c) is
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Juliana's best friend?
  - a) Who's
  - b) Whose
  - c) Whish
9. Why \_\_\_\_\_ the sky blue?
  - a) does
  - b) is
  - c) be
10. \_\_\_\_\_ old is your city?
  - a) Does
  - b) What
  - c) How

# Answer Key

### LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students learn how to form Wh- questions. They practice asking and answering Wh- questions through various speaking and writing activities.

**LEVEL:** Beg – Low Int

**TIME:** 2–3 hours

**TAGS:** questions, question formation, Wh- questions, Wh questions, grammar, grammar practice worksheets, present, past, present progressive, can, who, what, where, when, why, how, which, whose

## Grammar Notes

Review the grammar notes with your students. Answers to the (optional) Did You Know box on page 4 are:

- present progressive
- simple past
- simple present
- simple present
- simple past
- simple present (with a modal of ability)
- simple present
- simple past

### Exercise 1

- |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. c | 3. h | 5. d | 7. b |
| 2. a | 4. g | 6. f | 8. e |

### Exercise 2

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. Where | 5. Who   |
| 2. What  | 6. Which |
| 3. Whose | 7. Why   |
| 4. How   |          |

### Exercise 3

- |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. g | 3. a | 5. h | 7. d |
| 2. e | 4. f | 6. b | 8. c |

## Exercise 4

Answers will vary. Divide students into pairs or groups. Cut up the cards from pages 18–19 and divide them among the pairs/groups (or cut up one whole set for each pair/group). Monitor students for correct answer formation. Encourage students to follow up with more discussion after they answer each question. (E.g., A: *Which do you prefer, dogs or cats?* B: *I prefer dogs. I have a dog at home named Fido. How about you?* A: *I'm a dog person too.*) Page 20 has a blank card template to use as an optional review activity on another day. Have students write their own Wh- questions before proceeding as above.

## Exercise 5

Answers may vary.

1. What do you (usually) eat for lunch?
2. How old is your daughter?
3. How much does the hotel cost (a night)?
4. Who is that woman?
5. Where are they from?
6. What time / When does the class start?
7. What does he do? / What is his job?
8. Which do you prefer, coffee or tea?
9. Whose pen is this/that?
10. When did you finish your homework?

*(continued on the next page...)*



# Answer Key cont.

## Exercise 6

- Why **does Maria work** two jobs? She **needs** the money.
- What **was** the weather like yesterday? It **was** cold.
- Who is/Who's** our teacher? Our teacher is Mr. **Johnson**.
- When did **Chang come** to class? He **came** at 3:00.
- How often can she **attend** these meetings?  
She can **attend** every Tuesday and Thursday morning.
- Where **was** he yesterday?  
I'm not sure because **I didn't** see him.
- Which/What** do you prefer, chocolate or vanilla ice cream?  
I **prefer** chocolate.
- How **do/can you change** this clock?  
You **hold** down the button on the right.

## Exercise 7

Play the recording or read out the transcript below.

- |      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. c | 3. a | 5. b | 7. a | 9. a  |
| 2. a | 4. b | 6. a | 8. c | 10. b |

### Transcript:

- What time is it?
- Whose bag is on the table?
- How did you get to school today?
- Who sits next to you in class?
- Where is the nearest bank?
- Which movie did you see last night?
- Why are you studying English?
- Where does your brother work?
- When can you call me back?
- What is your favorite animal?

## Exercise 8

Answers will vary. Monitor your students for correct question formation and pronunciation.

## Exercise 9

Answers may vary.

- How old is Lee?
- He lives in San Diego, California.
- What does Lee like doing?
- He prefers to play the guitar.
- How often does Lee go surfing?
- He often uses his brother's surfboard.

## Exercise 10

- |      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. b | 3. c | 5. c | 7. c | 9. b  |
| 2. a | 4. b | 6. a | 8. a | 10. c |

## Question Cards

Cut up these cards and use them for Exercise 4 (on page 8).

|                                    |                                            |                                        |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| What time does this class start?   | How many brothers and sisters do you have? | Which do you prefer, summer or winter? |
| How are you today?                 | What do you do on weekends?                | Whose English skills do you admire?    |
| Which do you prefer, dogs or cats? | How often do you study English?            | What time do you eat breakfast?        |
| What did you do last night?        | Who is your favorite singer?               | Why are you studying English?          |

**Question Cards cont.**

|                                          |                                       |                                    |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Where is your favorite vacation spot?    | How much was your last pair of shoes? | How often do you exercise?         |
| How often do you eat junk food?          | What's your favorite movie?           | When did you wake up this morning? |
| Who do you text the most often?          | What's your favorite food?            | Which book did you last read?      |
| Why is it important to eat healthy food? | Whose clothes did you last borrow?    | When is your birthday?             |

## Blank Question Cards

Optional activity. Have students write their own questions to use as a warm-up or review activity.

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |