

Interrogatives: Wh words and how

1. Question words are also called “wh-” questions because these words include the letters ‘W’ and ‘H’. Wh- questions start with **what, when, where, who, whom, which, whose, why** and **how**. You use them to ask for information. The answer cannot be yes or no for those questions.

- Where are you from? – Yes, I am. (*wrong*)

Question word	Function	Example sentence
What	Asking for information about something	what is your name?
	Asking for repetition or confirmation	What? I can't understand. He did what?
What for	asking for a reason , asking why	What did you do that for?
When	asking about time	When did she come?
Where	asking in or at what place or position	Where do you live?
Which	asking about choice	Which book do you want?
Who	asking what or which person or people (subject)	Who opened the window?
Whom	asking what or which person or people (object)	Whom did you call?
Whose	asking about ownership	Whose are these shoes? Whose turn is it?
Why	asking for reason , asking what...for	Why do you talk like this?
Why don't	making a suggestion	Why don't you help me?
How	asking about manner	How does it work?
	asking about condition or quality	How was your exam?

2. How Question Words: asking for a way, manner or form. For example: How does it work?, How can I go?

Question word	Function	Example sentence
How many	Asking about quantity Used with countable nouns	How many people were there? How many apples on the table?
How often	asking about frequency	How often do you visit your mother?
How far	asking about distance	How far is the gas station from here?
How long	asking about length (time or space)	How long have been there?

How much	asking about quantity used with uncountable nouns	How much money do you have? How much sugar is in an apple?
How old	asking about age	How old is Queen Elizabeth?

Activity 1: Match each WH question to its appropriate answer.

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| a. What is your name? | 1. The second one. |
| b. Who is your class teacher? | 2. Our class teacher is Alan. |
| c. Which is your desk? | 3. This one is cheaper. |
| d. Who are those people? | 4. My name is Sam. |
| e. Who is Jennifer? | 5. They are my friends. |
| f. Which book is cheaper? | 6. Dave is at school. |
| g. Where is Dave? | 7. Jennifer is a singer. |
| h. Where is the key? | 8. It is Saturday. |
| i. What is today? | 9. The key is under the carpet. |

Activity 2: Complete the following questions with the appropriate question words.

1. is your math teacher? Mr. Dundee.
2. is his cat? The blue one.
- 3..... is my backpack? In the living room.
4. is Hannah doing? She is watching TV.
5. is an engineer? Nora.
6.color is the new bus? Red.
7.is that? That is an old coin.
8. are my shoes? In front of the door.
9.is the the captain of the team? Julia.
10. is the captain? She is at the gym.
11.is Mr. Durant? He is my best friend.