



The World of Languages
and Languages of the World

Question Words

Today we will look at question words and how they are used in different languages.

Get your thinking caps on...



Objectives

- We can see which words are used to ask questions and learn their meaning and place within a sentence.
- We can see which languages have interesting punctuation marks.
- We can spot similarities and differences between languages.



Let's go!



- Look at the following news story about tiger cubs. What **questions** does it answer?

An 18-year-old Siberian tigress has given birth to five cubs at a Siberian Tiger Zoo in northern China.

Siberian tigers are endangered with less than 1000 living in the wild.

Zoo keepers have been keeping a close eye on the health of the tigress and her cubs.



“The Journalistic Six”

- There are six key questions that good journalists must answer in their articles:
 - *Who* was involved?
 - *What* happened?
 - *When* did it happen?
 - *Where* did it happen?
 - *Why* did it happen?
 - *How* did it happen?
- What do these questions have in common?
- How do they begin?
- How do they end?



Question Words in English

- Question sentences start with *question words* and end with a *question mark*.
- There are seven question words in English: **who, what, where, when, why, which, and how**. **How do most of them begin?**
- Different question words are used to ask different types of questions. Can you match these question words to the information being sought?

Question Words
who
what
where
when
why
which
how

Information
choice
objects
reasons
people
time
descriptions/manner
places



'How' Questions

- Question word **how** can be used in different ways depending on the word that follows it.
- Can you match these 'how' questions to the information being sought?

Question Words
how often
how old
how far
how many
how much

Information
distance
quantity (uncountable nouns)
age
frequency
quantity (uncountable nouns)



Can you identify interrogative words in these questions? How would you answer them?

- *Do you want to learn Arabic?*
- *Are you a polyglot?*



Interrogative particles convert a sentence into a *yes-no question*. It does not have any other meaning. Here are some examples in different languages:

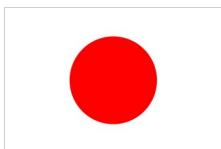
Language	Particle
French	est-ce
Russian	li
Polish	czy
Chinese	ma
Japanese	ka

*****Challenge:** If you speak one of these languages, think of a question using the interrogative particle.

Language detectives... are you ready?



Look at the following sentences in Japanese and Mandarin Chinese.
What can you see? Can you find the particle?



- 彼は日本人です
- 彼は日本人ですか？

Kare wa Nihon-jin desu. ("He is Japanese.")
Kare wa Nihon-jin desu ka? ("Is he Japanese?")



- 他是中國人
- 他是中國人吗？

Tā shì Zhōngguó rén. ("He is Chinese.")
Tā shì Zhōngguó rén ma? ("Is he Chinese?")

Let's travel to España, México Perú...



Here are some *preguntas* (questions) in Spanish. Can you identify question words in these sentences? Is there anything noteworthy?

- ¿Cómo te llamas?
- ¿Dónde vives?
- ¿Quién es tu mejor amigo?
- ¿Cuántos años tienes?
- ¿Cuáles son tus asignaturas favoritas?
- ¿Qué te gusta hacer en tu tiempo libre?

questions marks at the beginning of a sentence



A final challenge...

Imagine that you are a journalist interviewing a pupil about today's lesson on question words.

Which questions will you ask them in order to write an award-winning article?



WoLLoW would like to know...

Can you tell your partner 3 facts that you have learnt from today's lesson?



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WoLLoW the HiPPo

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