

Types of questions

There are two types of questions:

- Yes or no questions
- Wh –questions/ Question words

Question words

Question words are also called wh questions because they include the letters 'W' and 'H'.

Question words	Meaning	Examples
who	person	Who's that? That's Nancy.
where	place	Where do you live? In Boston
why	reason	Why do you sleep early? Because I've got to get up early
when	time	When do you go to work? At 7:00
how	manner	How do you go? By car
what	object, idea or action	What do you do? I am an engineer
which	choice	Which one do you prefer? The red one.
whose	possession	Whose is this book? It's Alan's.
whom	object of the verb	Whom did you meet? I met the manager.
what kind	description	What kind of music do you like? I like quiet songs
what time	time	What time did you come home?
how many	quantity (countable)	How many students are there? There are twenty.
how much	amount, price (uncountable)	How much time have we got? Ten minutes
how long	duration, length	How long did you stay in that hotel? For two weeks.
how often	frequency	How often do you go to the gym? Twice a week.

how far	distance	How far is your school? It's one mile far.
how old	age	How old are you? I'm 16.
how come	reason	How come I didn't see you at the party?

Asking questions

1.If you ask about the subject of the sentence, simply add the question word at the beginning:

Example:

James writes good poems. — **Who** writes good poems?

2.If you ask about the predicate of the sentence (the part of a sentence which contains the verb and gives information about the subject), there are three options:

- If there is a helping (auxiliary) verb that precedes the main verb (for example: can, is, are, was, were, will, would...), add the question word and invert the subject and the helping (auxiliary) verb.

Examples:

He can speak **Chinese**. — **What can he** speak?

They are leaving **tonight**. — **When are they** leaving?

- If you ask about the predicate and there is no helping (auxiliary) verb and the verb is "to be", simply add the question word and invert the subject and the verb.

Example:

The play was **interesting**. — **How was the play**?

- If there is no helping (auxiliary) verb in the the predicate and the main verb is not "to be", add the auxiliary "do" in the appropriate form.

Examples:

They go to **the movies** every Saturday. — **Where do** they go every Saturday?

He wakes up **early**. — **When does** he wake up?

They sent **a letter**. — **What did** they send?