

LEVEL 1 LESSON 24

So far, through our previous lessons, we have learned how to say “what” “where” “when” and “who”.

What = **뭐** [mwo]

Where = **어디** [eo-di]

When = **언제** [eon-je]

Who = **누구** [nu-gu]

And today, we are going to learn some more 의문사(interrogatives).

How = **어떻게** [eo-tteo-ke]

Why = **왜** [wae]

How much (money) = **얼마** [eol-ma]

How + adjective/adverb = **얼마나** [eol-ma-na]

Generally, these interrogatives in Korean are used before the verb of a sentence. But as the word order of the sentences is much more flexible (thanks in part to the subject/topic/object markers), they can come in at various parts of sentences, depending on the context or the nuance.

Examples

1. **어떻게** [eo-tteo-ke] = how

어떻게 찾았어요? [eo-tteo-ke cha-ja-sseo-yo?] = How did you find it?

(찾다 = to find, to look for)

어떻게 왔어요? [eo-tteo-ke wa-sseo-yo?] = How did you get here?

(오다 = to come)

2. 왜 [wae] = why

왜 전화했어요? [wae jeon-hwa-hae-sseo-yo?] = Why did you call?

(전화하다 = to call)

왜 안 왔어요? [wae an wa-sseo-yo?] = Why didn't you come?

(오다 = to come)

3. 얼마 [eol-ma] = how much

얼마예요? [eol-ma-ye-yo?] = How much is it?

얼마 냈어요? [eol-ma nae-sseo-yo?] = How much did you pay?

(내다 = to pay)

4. 얼마나 + adjective/adverb = how + [often/fast/early/soon/etc...]

얼마나 자주 와요? [eol-ma-na ja-ju wa-yo?] = How often do you come?

(자주 = often / 오다 = to come)

얼마나 커요? [eol-ma-na keo-yo?] = How big is it?

(크다 = to be big)

얼마나 무거워요? [eol-ma-na mu-geo-wo-yo?] = How heavy is it?

(무겁다 = to be heavy)