

“Wh-” questions (Question words)

Question words are also called “**Wh-**” questions because they include the letters 'W' and 'H'.

Question words:

Question words	Meaning	Examples
Who	person	<i>Who</i> was your previous doctor ?
Where	place	<i>Where</i> do you live ?
Why	reason	<i>Why</i> did you stop the pill ?
When	time	<i>When</i> was your last smear test ?
How	manner	<i>How</i> does the pain affect your daily life ?
What	object, idea or action	<i>What</i> medication are you on ?
Which	choice	<i>Which</i> of the hormonal contraceptives do you use ?
Whose	possession	<i>Whose</i> turn is it to scrub in ?
Whom	object of the verb	<i>Whom</i> did you operate on ?
What kind	description	<i>What kind</i> of pain do you experience ?
What time	time	<i>What time</i> does the lecture start ?
How many	quantity (countable)	<i>How many</i> children do you have ?
How much	amount, price (uncountable)	<i>How much</i> do you weigh ?
How long	duration, length	<i>How long</i> do your periods last ?
How often	frequency	<i>How often</i> do you have to change your pads each day ?
How far	distance	<i>How far</i> is the nearest hospital to you ?
How old	age	<i>How old</i> are you ?
How come	reason	<i>How come</i> you didn't see a doctor earlier ?

Asking questions:

Rule 1:

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

EXAMPLES :

- Dr Bajja was my previous doctor.
 - Who was your previous doctor ?
- Morphine gives me nausea.
 - What gives you nausea ?

Rule 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:

- a) 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 :

- We will remove **the tumor**.
 - What will we remove ?
- You should monitor your blood pressure.
 - What should you monitor ?

- b) 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.

EXAMPLES :

- The bleeding is **heavy**.
 - How is the bleeding ?

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

EXAMPLES :

- He teaches **medical students** to do basic sutures.
 - Whom does he teach to do basic sutures ?
- The man took his wife **to the emergency room**.
 - Where did the man take his wife ?