



Interrogative Word “What”

Grammar > Intermediate 4



Exercise 1 – Learning

Why do we use 'what'?

There are two types of questions: **yes-no** and **open-ended**.

A yes-no question can have only *yes* or *no* as the answer: "Are you cooking? - **Yes**, I am".

An open-ended question can have many answers: "What are you cooking? - An egg".

'**What**' is one of the interrogative words we use to form an open-ended question. Other interrogative words include: 'who', 'why', 'where', 'when', and 'how'.

How do we use 'what'?

To ask for the name or identity of something, use: **What + verb 'be'+ subject**:

- **What is** your name?
- **What is** the time?
- **What was** that?



To ask for the name of an action, use: **What + helping verb 'be'/'do' + subject + main verb:**

- **What** do you do? (= as your job)
- **What** are you doing?
- **What** did you do?

You can also use a modal verb instead of a helping verb:

- **What** can we do?

You can use 'what' in **what phrases** by putting it before other words: **what** time, **what** place, **what** color, etc.

- **What time** is it? - It's 5 o'clock.
- **What day of the week** is it? - It's Friday.
- **What color** was his shirt? - It was yellow.

What as a subject pronoun

When 'what' is the subject of a sentence, it works like any other subject pronoun (he, she, it, they).

*Ex: It fell off the wall. → **What** fell off the wall? ('What' replaces subject pronoun 'it')*



Exercise 2 – Multiple Choice

Choose the correct answers to complete the sentences.

1. What _____ this?

- a) is
- b) are

2. What _____ it do?

- a) do
- b) does

3. What _____ we do with it?

- a) do
- b) does

4. What _____ I use it for?

- a) do
- b) does



5. What uses _____ it have?

- a) do
- b) does

6. What _____ in the box?

- a) is
- b) are

7. What song _____ he sing?

- a) do
- b) does

8. What _____ those shoes?

- a) is
- b) are



Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

Use what you learned in class to create sentences with your tutor.

Example: do, today. → What do you want to do today?

Content:

1. eat for breakfast.
2. eat for lunch.
3. movies, to watch.
4. places, to go.
5. things, to do.
6. food, to cook.