

Lesson 4: Questions

I. Question Words

Combien de: How many [com-bee-an]

Comment: How [com-mon]

Où: Where [oooh]

Pourquoi: Why [pour-kwa]

Quand: When [kah-on-d]

Examples:

1. **Combien de sœurs est-ce que tu as?** [com-bee-an duh sir s que too ah]
How many sisters do you have?
2. **Comment est-ce qu'elles sont?** [com-mon s kell sone]
How are they like?
3. **Où est-ce que vous habitez?** [ooh s que voos ah-bee-tay]
Where are you from?
4. **Quand est-ce que vous allez au cinéma?** [kah-on s que voos ah lay oh cinema]
When are you going to the cinema?



Source: <https://images.google.com/>

II. Q&A: Explaining the Highlighted Parts from the Last Section

1.) Why is “combien” paired with de?

Recall in the last lesson, it is mentioned that “de” is paired with words that indicate quantity. Here, “combien” means how many, so “de” is followed after.

2.) Why is “est-ce” used in here?

With the exception of “combien de”, “est-ce que” is used immediately after all **question indicators** (pourquoi, comment, quand, and où). In the case of “combien de”, est-ce que is used after the object(s) of the sentence.

3.) In comment est-ce qu’elles sont, why is que and elles combined?

When que is followed by words that begin with a vowel, the two “Es” are combined using ‘, hence qu’elles.

4.) In “quand est-ce que vous allez **au** cinéma”, what does au mean?

Au is the combination of “à” and “le”, where à is used here to indicate preposition/location. Similarly, **à+la= à la**, and **à+les= aux**.