Basics of WH Questions

WH- questions (Question Words)

There are two main types of questions: Yes/No questions and WH- question. WH-questions are questions starting with WH-words including: *what, when, where, who, whom, which, whose, why and how.*

Question words are used to ask about specific qualities, times, places, people and so on. Below is a list of question words and example sentences:

Question words	Usages	Examples
What	Used to ask about things	What are you doing?What do you think about the movie?
When	Used to ask about time	When will the meeting start?When are you leaving?
Where	Used to ask about places	- Where's my bag? - Where do you live?
Who	Used to ask about people	Who do you love the most in your family?Who told you that story?
Whom	Used to ask about people (object of verb)	Whom did you see in the morning? I saw Mr.Mark, my English teacher.Whom was Jim talking to? He was talking to Jack, his new roommate.
Which	Used to ask about choices	Which one do you choose? The left or right?Of all the drinks in the menu, which one would you like?
Whose	Used to ask about possession	- Whose pencil is this? Is it yours? - Whose books are these?
Why	Used to ask about reasons/ causes	- Why did it happen? I didn't understand Why is he crying?

Question words	Usages	Examples
How	Used to ask about manner/	- How can you explain this problem? Please tellus.- How can you get here?

I. How to form WH-questions?

1. with an auxiliary

Wh-word + auxiliary + subject + main verb ...?

- Auxiliary verbs are helping verbs (not main verbs).
- Common auxiliary verbs include be, do, have. Others are will, shall, would, can, could, must, should, may, might, etc.
- What do you do for a living?
- *Why* should we read books?
- *When* is she coming?

2. without any auxiliary

(when WH-words replace subjects already)

Wh-word + main verb ...?

- *What* happened to Peter?
- A bad accident happened to him today.
- Who won the game?
- Tio won the game.
- Who gave you this present?
- My cousin gave me this present.