

Help Centres – English Support



Making Wh-Questions

- ❖ We use Wh-words to form information questions in English. These words are: **Who, What, When, Where, Why, How, Which, and Whose.**
- ❖ Wh-questions are used to ask for **information about someone or something.**

The common uses for the Wh-words are:

Word	Use	Questions
Who	People	Who are you talking to?
What	Things	What did you buy yesterday?
When	Time	When do you go to school?
Where	Place	Where did you live last year?
Why	Reason	Why are you angry?
How	Method	How will you get to work?
Which	Choice	Which store do you prefer, Winners or Old Navy?
Whose	Possession	Whose book is this?

- ❖ There are **two patterns** we use to form Wh-questions:

1. Questions with Be-Verb:

Wh-word + Be-Verb + Subject + (rest of sentence)

2. Questions with other verbs:

Wh-word + Aux-Verb + Subject + Main Verb + (rest of sentence)

Let's look at some wh-question forms:

Wh-question	Auxiliary Verb	Subject	Main Verb	Rest of Sentence
Who	is	the man		next to you?
What	did	you	eat	for breakfast?
When	will	your sister	come	to visit you?
Where	are	the plates?		
Why	does	she	like	horror movies?
How	was	the movie?		

Practice:

A) Look at the sentences below and write questions using the appropriate *wh*-question word

1. I live on Elm Street.

Question: _____?

2. We were at the library last night.

Question: _____?

3. They moved to Japan in 2020.

Question: _____?

4. I'm feeling better, thanks.

Question: _____?

5. He is my next-door neighbour.

Question: _____?

6. My new shoes cost \$150.

Question: _____?

7. I prefer dark chocolate.

Question: _____?

B) You have just met someone new and you would like to get to know them. Write a question for each *wh*-word that you could ask someone new.

C)

1. **Who** _____?

2. **What** _____?

3. **When** _____?

4. **Where** _____?

5. **Why** _____?

6. **How** _____?

7. **Which** _____?

8. **Whose** _____?