

How to form WH-questions?

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.

Forming wh-questions

1. With auxiliary

We usually form wh-questions with **wh-** + an auxiliary verb (be, do or have) + subject + main verb or with wh- + a modal verb + subject + main verb.

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.
- We usually form *wh-questions* with:
 1. wh- + an auxiliary verb
Wh+ (be, do or have) + subject + main verb)?
 2. wh- + a modal verb
Wh+ (will, shall, would, can, could, must, should, may, might) + subject + main verb)

Below is a list of question words and example sentences:

(1) **What** asks about things.

1- Ali is playing **football**.

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

What is Ali playing?

1- Ali plays **football**.

What does Ali play?

2- Ali played **football**.

What did Ali play?

3- The students play **football**.

What do the students play?

4- Ali will play **football**.

What will (*would, shall, should, can, could, may, might*) Ali play?

5- Ali has played **football**.

What has Ali played?

6- Ali had played **football**.

What had Ali played?

7- The students have played football.

What have the students played?

(2) **When** asks about time.

1-The train will arrive (**on Monday, at 7 o'clock, at night..etc.**).

When will the train arrive?

2- The moon shines **during the night**.

When does the moon shine?

3- Ali is going to visit his mother **tomorrow**.

When is Ali going to visit his mother?

(3) **Where** asks about place.

1- I live in **France** (**Iraq, England, America, Baghdad, Hilla, etc.**).

Where do you live?

2- Ali is going **to the zoo**.

Where is Ali going to?

3- She left her jacket **in her bed room**.

Where did she leave her jacket?

4- He will travel **to Basrah**.

Where will he travel?

(4) **Why** asks about the reason.

1. Ahmed went to the doctor **because he was sick**.

Why did Ahmed go to the doctor?

2. The girl jumps into the water **to swim**.

Why does the girl jump into the water.

3. They will arrive late **because they miss the train**.

Why will they arrive late?

5. Whom asks about the object.

1. We should talk to **our teacher**.

Whom should we talk to?

2. Muna saw **her sister** yesterday?

Whom did Muna see yesterday?

3. Ahmed knows **Sahara** in this class.

Whom does Ahmed know in this class?

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.
- What was written on the board?
A note was written on the board.
- What caused the problem?
A storm caused the problem.

(6) **Who** asks about the subject and the object. When **who** asks about the **subject** there is no version. The word order is the same as in a statement.

1. **Linda** invites you.

Who invites you?

2. **My friend** broke the window.

Who broke the window?

3. Suzan will leave the class.

Who will leave the class.

Ex 1 : Choose the correct question words.

- 1.....do you live? - I live in London.
- 2..... 's that girl? - She's my sister.
- 3..... do you go to school? - By bus.
- 4.....do banks open? - At eight O'clock.
- 5..... are you wearing that coat? - Because it's hot!
- 6.....do you see at college? – my colleagues

Ex 2 : Write question about the underlined words.

1. A: He is playing tennis.
2. He teaches French.
3. We should buy tickets.
4. He has visited Italy.
5. They are students.
6. She can come tomorrow.
7. December 25th is Christmas.
8. My mother is coming.
9. Six students live there.
10. She exercises twice a week.
11. The coat costs three dollars.
12. I like rock music.
13. He did poorly on the test.
14. I go to school by bus.
15. She called me in order to invite me.
16. She called her mother a question.

