
Questions in English ?



Questions in English

- There are different types of questions in English:

- n Yes / No short answers questions

- n Wh- questions



Short questions with auxiliaries

○ Structure:

Auxiliary + subject + verbal form + ...?
(verb tense used)

Examples:

- *Are they going to dance tonight?*
- *Does she like to play tennis in the mornings?*
- *Had they gone to the States before?*
- *Will the plane leave early tomorrow?*



Short questions with modals

○ Structure:

Modal + subject + verbal form + ...?
(verb tense used)

Examples:

- *Could Jane buy the shoes yesterday?*
- *Would you like to travel to Europe?*
- *Can you play the guitar?*
- *May I speak to Mr. Roberts, please?*
- *Must I go and see the doctor?*



Wh- questions

- Wh- questions can be divided into two main groups:

- n Simple

Who	What
Whom	Which
Whose	Why
Where	When
How	

- n Compound

How much	How about
How many	How + adjective
How long	What ... for
How far	Where ... from



Wh- questions (*structure*)

- Questions have different grammatical structures depending on what they refer to:

- n *Use this structure when the expected answer is part of the predicate of the sentence:*

- *Wh- + auxiliary + subject + verb + ...?*

Examples:

What did you do last night?

I went to a restaurant with my family last night.

When have they bought those books?

They have bought those books recently.



Wh- questions (*structure*)

- Use this structure when the expected answer is part of the subject of the sentence:

n Wh- + verbal form + ...?

Examples:

Who wrote that essay last week?

Sally wrote that essay last week.

What kept the room so clear?

Cleaning well keeps the room clear.

Who works here every day?

My father works here every day.

(In this case the question words *Who* and *What* are substituting the subject of the sentence, which is in fact the answer we expect.)



Who...?

- The question word Who is used to ask for person (*subject or indirect object*)

Subject:

n Who's your sister?

Mary is my sister.

n Who works there?

John works there.

n Who won the contest?

Robert won the contest.

n Who has bought a new car?

My father has bought a new car.

(Notice that this question does not include the auxiliary of the verbal tense because the information we expect as an answer belongs to the subject part of the sentence, not to the predicate.)



Who...?

Indirect object:

n *Who is that?*
He's Tommy.

n *Who's Sarah?*
She's a new student.

- o Notice that sometimes the question word with **Who** may take the auxiliary of the verbal tense used – when related to indirect object.

n *Who has she talked to?*
He has talked to John.

n *Who did she see last night?*
She saw Paul last night.



Whom...?

- o The question word **Whom** is used to ask for person (*indirect object*)

n *Whom did the manager talked to?*
He talked to Peter.

n *Whom are you waiting for?*
I'm waiting for my son to come.

n *Whom had they interviewed?*
They had interviewed some students.



Whose...?

- The question word **Whose** refers to possession or belonging.
- Notice how the **noun** subject of the possession goes after the question word **Whose**.

n *Whose pencil is this?*
It's mine (his, hers, yours, ours, theirs).
It's Susan's (Robert's, Miriam and Frank's).

n *Whose house is that?*
That house is my sister's.

n *Whose car is the one in front of the market?*
It's Alfred's.



Where...?

- The question word **Where** has two main uses. The first is that of **place** and the second is that of **origin**.

n Place:

○ *Where are they right now?*
They're at the park.

○ *Where do they work?*
They work at a nice restaurant.

n Origin:


○ *Where is he from?*
He's from France.

○ *Where is that car from?*
It's from Japan.




How...?

- The question word **How** is used to ask for three main pieces of information: manner, mood, and means. It may also be used for descriptions.

- n *How does your Mom operate the equipment? (manner)*
She operates it faster.
 - n *How do you go to work? (means)*
I go to work by bus.
 - n *How was your day? (mode)*
It was fine, thanks.
 - n *How is the weather? (description)*
It's rainy and cloudy.
-
- 

What...?

- The question word **What** may be used to ask about action, subject, direct object, job, and nationality, among others.

- n *What do you do? (action)*
I play sports.
 - n *What smells so good? (subject)*
Flowers smell so good.
 - n *What sports did you play? (direct object)*
I played tennis.
 - n *What's your occupation? (job)*
I'm a doctor.
 - n *What nationality is Frank? (nationality)*
He is British.
-
- 

Which...?

- The question word ***Which*** is related to objects and usually refers to selection.
 - n ***Which dress has Mary bought?***
She bought the red one.
 - n ***Which is her favorite color?***
Her favorite color is pink.
 - n ***Which country would you like to visit, Canada or Spain?***
I'd like to visit Canada.
(In this case you have more than one option)
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Why...?

- The question word ***Why*** refers to cause/effect; so it asks about *reason, cause or purpose*.
 - n ***Why is he interested in this book?***
It's about science and he likes it.
 - n ***Why do we study English so hard?***
Because we need to communicate.
 - n ***Why have you traveled around the world?***
I've traveled around the world to know about other countries' culture.
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When...?

- The question word ***When*** refers to time.

- n ***When*** do we have the party?
We have the party last Saturday.

- n ***When*** will they come?
They will come tomorrow morning at 8:00 p.m.

- n ***When*** did builders end the structure?
They ended the structure last month.



How much...?

- When we ask using ***How much*** we refer to quantity and it is used with uncountable nouns.

- n ***How much*** water do you need for that?
I need a lot of water I think.

- n ***How much*** space do we need for the structure?
We need some meters.

- n ***How much*** sugar does mother need for the cake?
She needs some pounds.



How many...?

- The question with **How many** is used to express *quantity*, but in this case it refers to countable nouns.

- n **How many pencils are there on the table?**

There are four pencils on the table.

- n **How many rooms do we have in this hotel?**

We have twenty rooms here.

- n **How many women are working in this office?**

About 5.



How long...?

- When we use the question **How long** we are referring to duration or period of time.

- n **How long have you been living here?**

I've been living here for about 3 years.

- n **How long has she been working in this firm?**

She's been working here for 10 months.

- n **How long did they stay in Mexico?**

They stayed there four years.



How far...?

- How far has to be with *distance*.

n *How far is post office from here?*
It's about 3 kilometers away.

n *How far from here can we find a night club?*
You can find it for about ten blocks from here.

n *How far is La Libertad from San Salvador?*
It's about 20 kilometers.



How about...?

- The type of question with *How about* is used when we have a previous reference and we do not want to repeat the same thing.

n *I'm 20 years old. How about you?*
I'm 25.

n *This red car costs \$15,000. How about that green one?*
The green one is about 20,000 more or less.

n *A: I feel really bad today. How about you?*
B: I feel very well today.



How + adjective...?

- This combination of *How + adjective* is used to describe or qualify.

n *How big is your house?*
My house is about 100 meters square.

n *How strong is that truck?*
It's hard enough for lifting some tons.

n *How interesting is this movie?*
This movie is very interesting.



What...for?

- This kind of question, *What ... for?* Is the equivalent for Why. So it is used to refer to *reason* or *purpose*.

n *What is that table used for?*
It's used for eating, and sometimes for studying.

n *What do we need to be early for?*
We need to be early for getting the plane on time.

n *What are you working for?*
Because I need some money.



Where...from?

- This combination of the question word *Where* and the preposition *from* is related to origin.

- n *Where are they from?*
They are from Mexico.

- n *Where is this PC from?*
It's from Japan.

- n *Where is Susan from?*
She's from Santa Ana city.

