



GRAMMAR: WH- QUESTIONS

- **Question words** are also called **wh-questions** because they include the letters 'W' and 'H'.

| Question words | Meaning | Example |
|------------------|--|---|
| Who | Person | Who is that? That is Sarah. |
| What | Object, idea or action | What do you do? I am an engineer. |
| Which | Choice | Which one do you prefer? I prefer the red one. |
| Where | Place | Where do you live? I live in Boston. |
| When | Time | When do you do your shopping? I do my shopping on Saturdays. |
| Why | Reason | Why are you going home? I am going home because I have to get up early. |
| Whose | Possession | Who is this book? It is Alan's book. |
| How | Manner | How do you to work? I go to work by car. |
| What kind | Description | What kind of music do you like? I like pop songs. |
| What time | Time | What time did you come home? I came home at 15:00. |
| How many | Quantity (countable) | How many students are there? There are 20 students. |
| How much | Quantity: amount and price (uncountable) | How much time have we got? We have got 10 minutes. |
| How long | Duration, length | How long did you stay in that hotel? I stayed in that hotel for two weeks |
| How often | Frequency | How often do you go to the gym? I go to the gym twice a week |
| How old | Age | How old are you? I am 16 years old. |

- **Asking questions**

1. **If you ask about the subject** of the sentence, simply add the question word at the beginning:

James writes good poems. -> **Who** writes good poems?

2. **If you ask about the predicate** of the sentence (the part of a sentence which contains the verb and gives information about the subject), there are three options:

a) If there is an auxiliary verb that precedes the main verb (for example: *can, is, are, was, were, will, would...*), add the question word and invert the subject and the auxiliary verb:

He can speak **Chinese**. -> **What can he** speak?

They are leaving **tonight**? -> **When are they** leaving?

b) If there is no auxiliary verb and the verb is *to be*, simply add the question verb and invert the subject and the verb:

The play was interesting. -> **How was the play**?

c) If there is no auxiliary verb and the main verb is not *to be*, add the auxiliary *do* in the appropriate form:

They go to **the movies** every Saturday. -> **Where do** they go every Saturday?

He wakes up **early**. -> **When does** he wake up?

They sent **a letter**. -> **What did** they send?

WORKSHEET

1. Write an appropriate question word: *who, what, which, where, when, why, whose, how, what kind, what time, how many, how much, how long, how often and how old.*

- 1) do you live? - I live in London.
- 2) is 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) are you going to do at Christmas? – I'm travelling to London.
- 7) hotel do you prefer? - I prefer the most luxurious one.
- 8) are you staying in this place? – I'm staying here for one month.
- 9) is your sister arriving? - She's coming tomorrow.
- 10) car is this? - It's Brad's car.
- 11) of food do you prefer? - I prefer Japanese food.
- 12) students are there in your class? - There are 32 students.
- 13) do you go swimming? - I go once a week.
- 14) is this lipstick? - It's €6.50.
- 15) old is your mum? - She's 40 years old.

2. Write questions about the underlined words.

Example: He drank juice. - What did he drink?

- 1) Lacy likes soccer:
- 2) Lacy likes soccer:
- 3) Mike and Aaron went to Spain:
- 4) Mike and Aaron went to Spain:

- 5) She can speak four languages:
- 6) He is starting his new job tomorrow:
- 7) The film was really boring:
- 8) I am Mary's brother:
- 9) He writes novels:
- 10) The film starts at 20:00 o'clock:
- 11) I visit my grandparents twice a week: