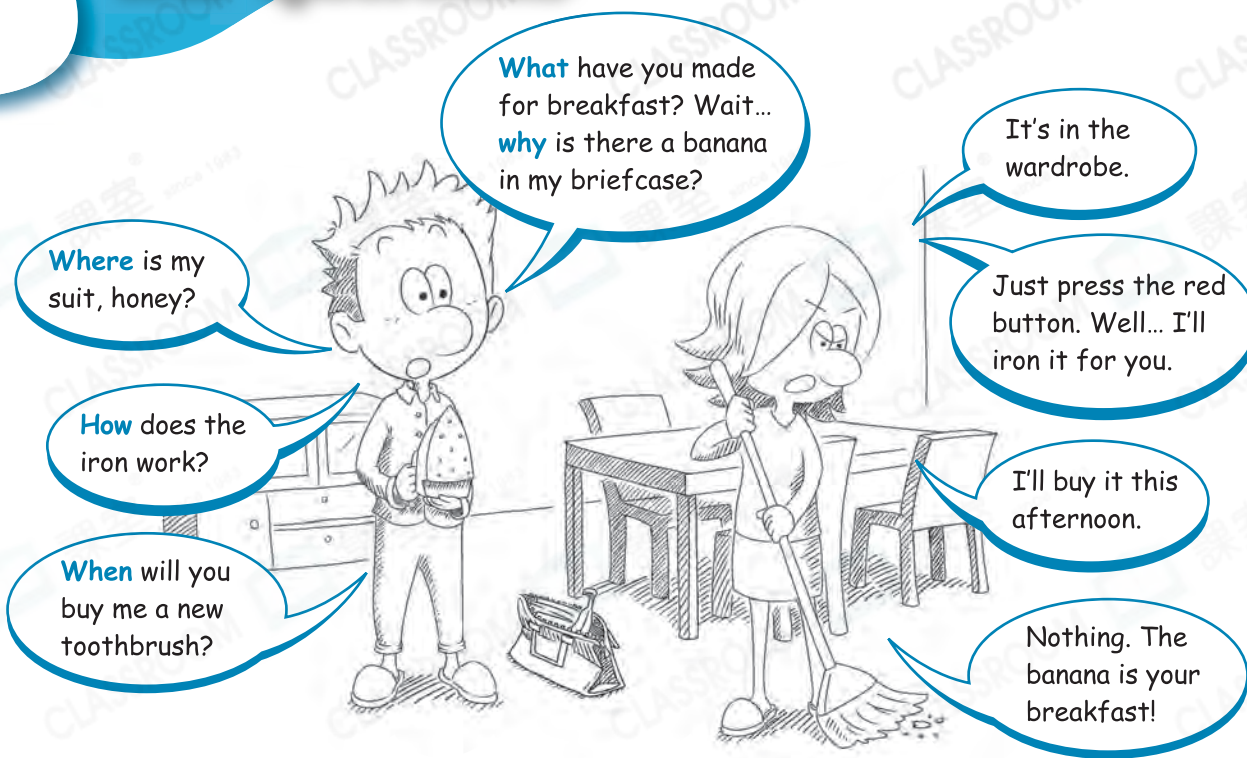


6

Wh-questions



Usage

Wh-questions are also called open questions. They are formed with different *wh*-words (question words). *Wh*-questions formed with different question words can be used to ask about specific information.

<i>Wh</i> -word	To ask about...	Example	
What	a person or thing	What is Sandy watching?	A music video.
Where	a place	Where did you go last night?	Mongkok.
Who	(the identity of) a person	Who is the girl over there?	Emily.
How	the way of doing something	How does Leo go to work?	By bus.
When	the time	When will you come home?	At 9 pm.
Which	a choice	Which is your school bag?	The blue one.
Whose	possession	Whose shoes are these?	Jerry's.
Why	a reason	Why did he feel sad?	Because he was lost.



Part 1 The Simple Present, Simple Past and Present Continuous

We form *wh*-questions in the simple present tense, simple past tense and present continuous tense in the following ways:

Tense	<i>Wh</i> -word	Helping <i>do</i>	Subject	Main verb <i>base form</i>
Simple present	Why	do	you	draw?
	Who	does	he	like?
Simple past	What	did	they	eat?
	When		the lesson	start?

Tense	<i>Wh</i> -word	Helping <i>be</i>	Subject	Main verb <i>+ing</i>
Present continuous	Where	is	Susan	going?
	Why	are	they	yelling?

<i>Wh</i> -word	Main verb <i>to be</i>		
Why	am	I	sad?
Who	is	that woman?	
When	was	the last time	you travelled?
What	were	your childhood hobbies?	

<i>Wh</i> -word	Main verb	
Who	stole	my book?

Exercise 1

Correct the underlined mistakes by writing the correct words in the spaces provided.

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. How <u>is</u> Amy go to work every day? | 1. <u>does</u> |
| 2. Who <u>did</u> your class teacher last year? | 2. _____ |
| 3. When does Paul usually <u>goes</u> to bed? | 3. _____ |
| 4. Where did the Chan family <u>lived</u> ? | 4. _____ |
| 5. What <u>does</u> your sister doing in the kitchen now? | 5. _____ |
| 6. Why <u>are</u> Emily and Mike leave early in the dinner yesterday? | 6. _____ |



Part 2 The Simple Future and Be going to

We form *wh*-questions in the simple future tense and with *be going to* in the following ways:

The Simple Future

<i>Wh</i> -word	Helping verb	Subject	Main verb	
How	will	I / you / we / they / he / she / it	finish	the task tomorrow?
When	will	-	be	the holiday?

Be going to

<i>Wh</i> -word	Helping verb	Subject	<i>going to</i>	Main verb	
What	am	I	going to	eat	tonight?
	are	you / we / they			
	is	he / she / it			
Who	is	-		be	the champion?

Exercise 2

Complete the conversation with the correct *wh*-words and the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Fill in each blank with ONE word only.

Dad: Hi, Sam! (1) How are (be) you? (2) _____ you
_____ (stay) now?

Sam: I'm good, Dad. I'm now in a student hostel.

Dad: (3) _____ are you staying there? I thought you'd stay in a hotel.

Sam: Because I can make more friends in a hostel, Dad.

Dad: OK. Did you meet Aunt Debbie? (4) _____ (be) she?

Sam: Oh! I haven't visited her yet.

Dad: (5) _____ you _____ (visit) her then?

Sam: Probably next Sunday.

Dad: Good! (6) _____ you _____
_____ (give) her as a gift? You should think about it.





Part 3 Question Phrases

We can form *wh*-questions with question phrases. Question phrases starting with *What*, *Which* or *Whose* are followed by **a noun or a noun phrase**. Question phrases starting with *How* are followed by **an adjective or an adverb**.

Question phrase		Example
<i>Wh</i> -word	Noun / Noun phrase	
What	time	What time is it now?
Which	subject	Which subject do you like best?
Whose	toy car	Whose toy car is this?

Question phrase		Example
<i>Wh</i> -word	Adjective / Adverb	
How	many	How many books are you going to buy?
	long	How long was the lesson?
	often	How often do you do sports?



Educator's Tips



We use *What* when there are lots of possible options and *Which* when there are limited options or when the listeners supposedly have certain background information.

e.g. *What* is your favourite ice cream? (A question in general)

e.g. *Which* is your favourite ice cream? (The listeners know the options available)

Exercise 3.1

Fill in the blanks with the correct *wh*-words and question phrases.

- _____ *Which* _____ country do you want to visit most? I want to visit the US most.
- _____ diamond ring will May choose? The more expensive one.
- _____ money did you pay for the car? I paid \$320,000.
- _____ dishes are you going to cook? Five dishes.
- _____ colour was your mobile phone? It was green.
- _____ trousers are these? These are Kenneth's trousers.

Exercise 3.2

Match the questions with the answers by writing the correct letters in the spaces provided.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A. Where did you find this lost book? | B. When is Max's French exam? |
| C. How much water do you need? | D. Who will the rich guy marry? |
| E. Which bag is she going to buy? | F. How far is your house from here? |

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. X: <u> B </u>
Y: On 17 th June. | 2. X: <u> </u>
Y: The pink one. | 3. X: <u> </u>
Y: About 500 metres. |
| 4. X: <u> </u>
Y: Under the bag. | 5. X: <u> </u>
Y: Christy. | 6. X: <u> </u>
Y: 3 litres. |



Part 4 Subject or Object?

Wh-words act as either the subject or the object of a question. When they act as the **objects**, we have to put an **auxiliary verb** before the subject of the question.

Subject		Object		Object		Subject	
Who	feeds	Little John?	Who	does	Mrs Lee	feed?	
What	changed	your mind?	What	did	it	change?	
Which film	amuses	you?	Which film	do	you	enjoy?	
Whose songs	attract	her?	Whose songs	does	she	like?	

Exercise 4

Circle the *wh*-words and question phrases in the questions below. Then write 'S' for the subjects or 'O' for the objects in the spaces provided.

- Whose present do you like most?
- What is moving fast?
- Who repaired the bike?
- Which museum did the students visit last week?
- What are they going to join?
- Which loudspeaker is of the highest quality?

O

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Unit Recap

The reporter of Dragon TV is interviewing the tennis champion, Mike. Complete the interview with the correct *wh*-words, question phrases and the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Fill in each blank with **ONE** word only.

Reporter: Congratulations Mike! You won the Asian Open Cup handsomely.

(1) What do you think (think) about the match?

Mike: Oh, I think it was tough. Thomas, my **opponent**, was very aggressive.

Reporter: Then (2) _____ you _____ (win) the match?

(3) _____ (be) your **tactic**?

Mike: Well, I forced him to get closer to the baseline when I made the first serves. My tactic was all about getting a good angle.

Reporter: Amazing! (4) _____ do you practise a day?

Mike: About five hours. Six if I need more time to warm up after an injury.

Reporter: That's pretty tough. (5) _____ helps you get back after an injury?

Mike: My coach's and family's support. Support from fans is important too!

Reporter: I see. By the way, I know you are on vacation now. (6) _____ you _____ (do) in this period of time?

Mike: I am spending most of the time with my parents.

Reporter: That's great. Mike, (7) _____ competition do you aim at winning next?

(8) _____ they _____ (hold) it?

Mike: The World Tennis Championship in Canada is my next goal.

Reporter: Last question. Your fans would love to know this. (9) _____ you _____ (**propose**) to your girlfriend?

Mike: Haha... It's a difficult question... Maybe within this year.



Vocabulary:

opponent (n.): someone you try to defeat in a game

tactic (n.): a method that you use to achieve something

propose (v.): to ask somebody to marry you