

# Unit 13

This is your first Oscar. You are excited, aren't you? How will you celebrate?

Absolutely! I'll host a party and invite my close friends. What else is better than that?

## Wh-questions, question tags & rhetorical questions



### Grammar in Context

Theme: Showbiz

Words by Theme



Read the following FAQs and answer the questions.

#### Elite Student Performer<sup>1</sup> Programme—FAQs

We welcome nominees<sup>2</sup> from local secondary schools. Why don't you apply now?

#### Who is eligible<sup>3</sup> for the programme?

Students who are nominated<sup>4</sup> by their schools can apply for our programme.

#### How do I apply for the programme?

You may submit your application online or in person at our general office.

#### When can I apply for the programme?

You can apply for our programme on or before 30 October (by 6 pm).

#### What documents do I need to apply for the programme?

You need to provide an official nomination<sup>5</sup> letter from your school and your student card.

#### Will there be any benefits of becoming an elite student performer?

You will be able to take advantage of<sup>6</sup> the tuition-free acting courses conducted by our celebrity<sup>7</sup> professors throughout the year.

**You can't wait to embark on<sup>8</sup> the journey to showcase your acting talent<sup>9</sup>, can you?**

\*If you do not hear from us in two months, please consider your application unsuccessful.



UNIVERSITY OF  
PERFORMING ARTS

1. Find an example of a *wh*-question.

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2. Find an example of a question tag.

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3. Find an example of a rhetorical question.

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## PART 1 Wh-questions

When asking for information, we can use different *wh*-words to form *wh*-questions.

Wh-words	To ask about ...	Questions	Answers
Who	people	<i>Who</i> wins the competition?	John.
What	things	<i>What</i> have you had for lunch?	Spaghetti bolognese.
Which	choices	<i>Which</i> do you prefer, sparkling water or still water?	Sparkling water, please.
When	time	<i>When</i> is your flight?	At 7 am.
Where	places	<i>Where</i> is the City Hall?	In Central.
Why	reasons	<i>Why</i> did you cancel the trip to Japan?	I wasn't feeling well.
Whose	possession	<i>Whose</i> pens are those?	They're mine.
How	in what ways	<i>How</i> do you go to school?	By minibus.

### PART 1A Wh-words

#### 1. What / Which / Whose + noun

- *What colour* do you like?
- *Which pop stars* do you like?
- *Whose birthday* is it today?

#### 2. Wh-word + kind(s) / sort(s) of + noun

- *What kind / sort of music* do you like?
- *What kinds / sorts of films* does he often watch?

### Let's compare

*What* (unlimited number of choices)

*What restaurant* do you recommend?

*Which* (limited number of choices)

*Which arm* have you broken?

### Error Diagnosis

We use *else* after *how*, *what*, *where*, *who* and *why*, but we do not put *else* after *which*.

Here is a glass of water and some snacks. *Which else* can I get for you? ✗

Here is a glass of water and some snacks. *What else* can I get for you? ✓

There are two backpacks. *Which one* is yours? ✓

*else*: besides someone or something mentioned

*one*: to avoid repeating a noun

#### 3. How + many / much

<i>How many</i>	+ plural noun	<i>How many chihuahuas</i> do you have? (quantity)
<i>How much</i>	+ uncountable noun + singular / plural noun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>How much butter</i> should we add? (quantity)</li> <li>▪ <i>How much</i> is the rug / are the rugs? (price)</li> </ul>

#### 4. How + adjective / adverb

Age	<i>How old</i> is your cousin?	Weight	<i>How heavy</i> was the biggest dinosaur?
Frequency	<i>How often</i> do you eat out?	Length	<i>How long</i> is the Great Wall?
Ability	<i>How well</i> does he sing?	Duration	<i>How long</i> did World War II last?
Size	<i>How big</i> is your bedroom?	Distance	<i>How far</i> is the MTR station?
Depth	<i>How deep</i> is the harbour?	Speed	<i>How quickly / fast</i> do you type?

## Let's compare

### How tall ... ?

To ask about the size and height of people or things that are narrow and thin

*How tall* is that man / giraffe / tree / building / ladder?

### How high ... ?

To ask about the positions of things that are wide and a long way above the ground

*How high* is Mount Everest / the wall / hill / ceiling?

## Reminder

We can use *how* to ask about the way something happens. We can also use it to:

Extend a greeting	▪ <i>How</i> are you / things?	▪ <i>How</i> do you do?	▪ <i>How's</i> it going?
Make a suggestion	▪ <i>How about</i> a break?	▪ <i>How about</i> going to the gym?	
Ask a reason	Josh: Sam lives a healthy lifestyle, but he often falls ill. Anna: <i>How come</i> ?		

## PART 1B Forming wh-questions

### 1. Using the helping verbs

Wh-word	Helping verb	Subject	Verb	
<i>Why</i>	<i>did</i>	Joe	<i>leave</i>	our group chat?
<i>Where</i>	<i>are</i>	you	<i>going?</i>	
<i>What</i>	<i>does</i>	the teacher	<i>think</i>	about our project?
<i>Which photo</i>	<i>will</i>	you	<i>choose</i>	for the wallpaper on your phone?
<i>How much</i>	<i>do</i>	you	<i>weigh?</i>	

### 2. Without the helping verbs

Wh-word	Verb	
<i>Why</i>	<i>are</i>	you so quiet?
<i>What</i>	<i>is</i>	wrong?
<i>Who</i>	<i>made</i>	you cry?

Wh-word	Verb	
<i>Who</i>	<i>bullied</i>	you?
<i>What else</i>	<i>happened</i>	in the classroom?
<i>Which boys</i>	<i>said</i>	insulting things about you?

## Exercise 1.1

Complete the questions with the help of *wh*-words. Write ONE word in each blank.

1. Who did you trust most? My parents.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the Eiffel Tower? 330 metres.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is the gym? On the third floor.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ did the First World War end? In 1918.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is Victoria Harbour? 12 metres on average.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ is the observation deck? 1131 feet.



- 7. \_\_\_\_\_ water do people drink in Canada? Tap water.
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_ there were so many wildfires this year? Because of heat and drought.
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_ is this fanny pack? One hundred and fifty.
- 10. \_\_\_\_\_ does it take to travel from Tuen Mun to Central? More than an hour by bus.



**Exercise 1.2**

Eva and Jon are fitness coaches. Complete their conversation by writing ONE word in each blank.

Good morning, Jon. (1) How are you?

Pretty good! (2) \_\_\_\_\_ you here?  
Are you waiting for someone?

Yes, I'm waiting for Mrs Green.

(3) \_\_\_\_\_ she?

She's our new client. I'll take her to the showroom.

I see. Sometimes I try the treadmill there.

(4) \_\_\_\_\_ you often use?

I also use the rowing machine very often.

(5) \_\_\_\_\_ you work out in the last few weeks?

About twice a week. We can hit the gym together next week if you like.

That sounds good. (6) \_\_\_\_\_ you go there?

We're going next Wednesday.

(7) \_\_\_\_\_ going?

Edward and Selena. They're certified trainers!

That's great. I'm in.

By the way, (8) \_\_\_\_\_ you working on next month?

I'm going on a business trip.

(9) \_\_\_\_\_ you travelling to?

I'm going to Australia.

(10) \_\_\_\_\_ offices \_\_\_\_\_ you visiting?

The headquarters in Sydney and the branch in Melbourne.

I've been to Melbourne. The Block Arcade is a must-see! (11) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ your trip?

Two weeks. I'll go to the Block Arcade if I have time ...



**More to take away** the Block Arcade = a historic shopping arcade in Melbourne, Australia

## PART 2 Question tags

We can add a question tag to a statement to turn it into a question. Question tags are more common in speaking and informal writing.

When we are ...	
sure the statement is correct:	<i>The storm is horrible, isn't it?</i> — falling intonation ↘
not sure if the statement is correct:	<i>Theo didn't fail the test, did he?</i> — rising intonation ↗

### PART 2A Forming question tags

Positive statement ⊕ ↔ negative tag ⊖	<i>The blossoms <b>are</b> beautiful, <b>aren't they?</b></i>
Negative statement ⊖ ↔ positive tag ⊕	<i>Samuel <b>didn't text</b> you back, <b>did he?</b></i>

When the statement has ...	use ... to form the tag.	Examples
a verb <i>to be</i>	the verb <i>to be</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We <b>are</b> late for the ceremony, <b>aren't we?</b></li> <li>▪ There <b>isn't</b> any problem, <b>is there?</b></li> </ul>
a helping verb	the helping verb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emily <b>can't</b> swim, <b>can she?</b></li> <li>▪ Giraffes <b>don't</b> eat meat, <b>do they?</b></li> <li>▪ She <b>wasn't</b> paying attention, <b>was she?</b></li> <li>▪ You <b>have</b> done your work, <b>haven't you?</b></li> </ul>
a main verb in the simple present or simple past tense	<i>do / does / did</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fred <b>likes</b> reading, <b>doesn't he?</b></li> <li>▪ They <b>hated</b> me, <b>didn't they?</b></li> </ul>

### PART 2B Special forms

Statements	Tags	Examples
<i>This / That ...</i>	<i>... it?</i>	<i><b>That</b> will be a delicious meal, <b>won't it?</b></i>
<i>These / Those ...</i>	<i>... they?</i>	<i><b>These</b> aren't expired, <b>are they?</b></i>
Imperatives	<i>will / can you?</i>	<i><b>Leave</b> me alone, <b>can you?</b></i>
<i>Let's ...</i>	<i>shall we?</i>	<i><b>Let's</b> grab something to eat, <b>shall we?</b></i>
<i>I am ...</i> <i>I'm not ...</i>	<i>aren't I?</i> <i>am I?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>I am</b> wrong, <b>aren't I?</b></li> <li>▪ <b>I'm not</b> wrong, <b>am I?</b></li> </ul>
Negative words: <i>no / never / hardly / seldom</i>	Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ivy <b>seldom</b> donates, <b>does she?</b></li> <li>▪ Jonathan is <b>never</b> on time, <b>is he?</b></li> </ul>
<i>-thing</i>	<i>... it?</i>	▪ <b>Anything</b> is fine with him, <b>isn't it?</b>
<i>-body / -one / none</i>	<i>... they?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Everyone</b> likes him, <b>don't they?</b></li> <li>▪ <b>None</b> of the students arrived on time, <b>did they?</b></li> </ul>

### Reminder

We answer a tag in the same way we answer a Yes / No question.

*Leon hasn't cleaned the room, **has he?***

**Yes, he has.** (= Leon has cleaned the room.)

**No, he hasn't.** (= Leon hasn't cleaned the room.)



## Exercise 2.1

Fill in the blanks using the correct question tags.

- There is a port nearby, \_\_\_\_\_ isn't there \_\_\_\_\_?
- This is going to be a huge festival, \_\_\_\_\_?
- Everything went well, \_\_\_\_\_?
- I am not mistaken, \_\_\_\_\_?
- Someone has locked the door, \_\_\_\_\_?
- Do not lose that key, \_\_\_\_\_?
- Charlotte windsurfs every Sunday, \_\_\_\_\_?
- You can hardly blame me for not waiting, \_\_\_\_\_?



## Exercise 2.2

Danielle and Janice are hiking the Dragon's Back. Complete what they say using the correct question tags.

The weather is nice, (1) \_\_\_\_\_ isn't it \_\_\_\_\_?

Yes, it is. We've picked a perfect day,  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_?

Exactly. You did the Dragon's Back before,  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_?

Yes, I did. It took me less than two hours to complete  
the trail. That wasn't bad, (4) \_\_\_\_\_?

Of course not. There aren't many steep  
slopes, (5) \_\_\_\_\_?

Not really. You've done enough training.  
You can finish the trail easily.

I'm much fitter than before,  
(6) \_\_\_\_\_?

Yes, indeed. Keep it up, (7) \_\_\_\_\_?

I will! We're going to rest soon,  
(8) \_\_\_\_\_?



Yes. After a 20-minute  
hike, we'll arrive at a spot  
overlooking the breathtaking  
scenery of Shek O Beach.

That's nice. Let's take a photo  
of us when we get there,  
(9) \_\_\_\_\_?

Sure! I never look too exhausted in our hiking  
photos, (10) \_\_\_\_\_?

Of course not, you always look energetic.  
There's another scenic spot afterwards,  
(11) \_\_\_\_\_?

Yes, there is. We'll continue on the ridge of the  
Dragon's Back until we reach Shek O Peak.

Right. And we'll reach Shek O Beach in  
the end, (12) \_\_\_\_\_?

Yes. Let's chill out there, (13) \_\_\_\_\_?

Sure, I can't wait!

These are too challenging for me, (14) \_\_\_\_\_?

Are you interested in climbing the top  
ten highest mountains in Hong Kong?

## PART 3 Rhetorical questions

We ask rhetorical questions to make a statement. We do not expect an answer.

	Examples
To introduce a topic	<i>Why is entertainment beneficial to society?</i>
To persuade the audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>You want to keep fit. Why don't you do more sports?</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Can't you motivate yourself?</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Who else can help if you don't get yourself moving?</i></li> </ul>
To emphasise a point	<i>Should we really turn a blind eye to climate change?</i>



### Exercise 3.1

Which types of questions are they? Write the letters (A–L) in the boxes.

- A. Can money really buy happiness?
- B. What should we prepare for the trip to Iceland?
- C. The falls at Niagara are spectacular, aren't they?
- D. Who will chair the committee next month?
- E. Who cares?
- F. Jimmy didn't bring his passport, did he?
- G. Let's join the Tennis Club, shall we?
- H. Shouldn't animals have their rights too?
- I. How heavy is the laptop?
- J. Why can't you just admit that you were wrong?
- K. Your brothers seldom go shopping with you, do they?
- L. Which cinema has the best audio systems?



Wh-questions	Question tags	Rhetorical questions
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>



### Exercise 3.2

Ellie is browsing a discussion forum. Complete the discussion using the given questions.

- What else can we do?
- Who can say these skills are not important?
- Doesn't that create more anxiety and stress?
- Which is better for us, being stressed out all the time or learning life lessons from volunteering?
- We should have more spare time, shouldn't we?
- Isn't health the most important thing in life?
- This will be a great opportunity to build a network of friends and professional contacts outside school, won't it?
- Is it enough for us to deepen our understanding of what we've learnt?
- Is it really a good idea to do homework for hours after school?

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cherryjim2

**Should homework be banned?**

#297361 – 13/8/20XX 3:34 PM



Rank: Gold

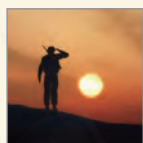
Posts: 120

Our teachers give us too much homework. I spend three hours every day to finish the homework. **(1)** We should have more spare time, shouldn't we? Instead of sitting all day, we can do sports. **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_

warrior1tom

**Re: Should homework be banned?**

#297362 – 13/8/20XX 4:12 PM



Rank: Silver

Posts: 86

Yes, it is indeed! We already sit in the classroom all day. **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_

If we have no homework, we can spend more time with our families and friends.

**(4)** \_\_\_\_\_

cherryjim2

**Re: Should homework be banned?**

#297363 – 13/8/20XX 4:20 PM



Rank: Gold

Posts: 120

We can volunteer at community centres as well. **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_

Moreover, having too much homework doesn't really help us learn. **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_

pinkqqball

**Re: Should homework be banned?**

#297364 – 14/8/20XX 11:02 AM



Rank: Bronze

Posts: 54

But having no homework is likely to make exams and tests a huge challenge. **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_

Doing homework allows us to know how well we understand what we've learnt. With homework, we can do better preparation for exams and tests.

lamhectorxx

**Re: Should homework be banned?**

#297365 – 14/8/20XX 7:56 PM



Rank: Gold

Posts: 168

I'd say a suitable amount of homework is the solution. Schools usually offer only two hours of classes for each subject. **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_

Doing homework involves independent learning. It can train our time management skills too. **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_

## Grammar Wrap-up

Phill and Felix are talking about fencing. Complete their conversation based on the instructions.

**Phill:** Hello, Felix. It's been a while since we last saw each other. Good to see you again!

**Felix:** Me too. (1) When did we last meet? (Wh-question: *we-last-meet*)

**Phill:** I remember it was in May. (2) I invited you to my housewarming party. (Question tag: *I-invite-you-to-my housewarming party*)

**Felix:** Yes, but I didn't go because I was very busy at that time.

**Phill:** (3) You were busy with your studies. (Wh-question: *you-be-busy-with*)

**Felix:** I was preparing for a fencing competition.

**Phill:** I thought you were only into mobile games. (4) Why didn't you take up a sport? (Rhetorical question: *you-not be-glad-you-finally-take up-a sport*)

**Felix:** Ha ha. I did invent all sorts of excuses to get out of PE lessons when I was in primary school. Now I'm passionate about fencing. (5) I'm really into it. (Question tag: *it-be-funny*)

**Phill:** Indeed. (6) Where did you learn to fence? (Wh-question: *you-learn-this sport*)

**Felix:** At Hong Kong Fencing School.

**Phill:** (7) How much does a session cost? (Wh-question: *a session-cost*)

**Felix:** About HK\$250 for the beginner level. (8) You seem interested. (Question tag: *you-seem-interested*)

**Phill:** Yes, I still remember the moment when Cheung Ka-long beat the defending Olympic champion. (9) He was such an inspiring athlete. (Rhetorical question: *he-not be-an inspiring athlete*)

**Felix:** I couldn't agree more. People used to think fencing was an unpopular sport. (10) It used to be a sport for the upper class. (Rhetorical question: *people-not say-it-be-a sport for the upper class*) Cheung's historic win has changed people's mind.

**Phill:** Right! (11) Everyone was thrilled by the victory at that moment. (Rhetorical question: *everyone-not be-thrilled-by the victory-at that moment*) I really want to try this sport. (12) Call your school for me. (Question tag: *call-your school-for me*) I want to join your class!

**Felix:** No problem.



# Grammar in Pre-DSE Text Type

Theme: Showbiz

Eve is listening to an interview on a podcast. Complete the interview based on the instructions.

- ✧ Wh-question: *it-take place*
- ✧ ~~Wh-question: *be-the tour*<sup>1</sup>~~
- ✧ Wh-question: *be-the next show*
- ✧ Question tag: *tell-us-more*
- ✧ Question tag: *we-have-a very tight schedule*<sup>2</sup>
- ✧ Question tag: *there-be-an accident-during the last show*
- ✧ Rhetorical question: *he-not be-lucky*
- ✧ Rhetorical question: *you-not worry-that-your fans-forget-you*
- ✧ Rhetorical question: *you-not think-so*
- ✧ Rhetorical question: *it-not be-unforgettable-to perform*<sup>3</sup> *there*

Words by Theme



**Logan:** Hello and welcome to *Entertainment Today*. I'm Logan. Freya Poon, the 18-year-old pop superstar, is joining us today. She's currently on a world tour with Jack So, but she has taken time out to talk to us. Welcome, Freya.

**Freya:** Thanks for having me. Hello, everybody. It's great to be back in Hong Kong.

**Logan:** It's great to finally have you on our podcast<sup>4</sup>. You're now touring with Jack So. **(1)** How is the tour?

**Freya:** It's my first world tour. It's going great. We've done 20 shows in less than two months. **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ The crowds were amazing and there was a buzz<sup>5</sup>.

**Logan:** That sounds great. Unluckily, **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Freya:** Yes, Jack fell from the stage, but he only suffered some minor injuries. **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Logan:** Indeed. I hope that he gets well soon. **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Freya:** It'll be on 5 August. We're now busy preparing for it.

**Logan:** **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Freya:** It'll take place in Wembley Stadium<sup>6</sup> in London.

**Logan:** That's the biggest stadium in the UK. **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Freya:** Definitely! We can't wait!

**Logan:** After the world tour, what's your next move?

**Freya:** I'll have some rest and go on vacation for a couple of weeks, or maybe months.

**Logan:** **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Freya:** I do, but a rest is a step for a longer journey ahead! **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_

And actually, I've already had a big project in the pipeline. I've been thinking about performing in the theatre<sup>7</sup> for years. I've finally decided to give it a go.

**Logan:** We can't wait to know more about your big plan. **(10)** \_\_\_\_\_



More to take away

in the pipeline = in preparation

We can write different kinds of questions. Besides asking for information, we can use them to introduce a topic or to emphasise a point to get the audience thinking.



- How many more racehorses have to lose their lives before we end this cruel sport? (Wh-question; Rhetorical question)
- We can do it, can't we? (Questioning tag)
- Have you ever thought you can help make the world a better place? (Rhetorical question)

Charlie is writing a film review. Complete the review by changing the statements into *wh*-questions, question tags or rhetorical questions.



## Cultural Legacy: *Back to the Future*

(1) Who would know that the story of a time-travelling sports car could become a worldwide phenomenon? \_\_\_\_\_ (No one would know that the story of a time-travelling sports car could become a worldwide phenomenon.) Since its release in 1985, the film *Back to the Future* has become a classic adventure blockbuster.

The opening shot of the film shows a room full of clocks. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (One may wonder why there are so many ticking clocks.)

Then, a teenager named Marty receives a call from Doc Brown. (3) \_\_\_\_\_ ('Meet me at the parking lot tonight,')

Doc said. Upon arriving there, Marty finds out that Doc has built a time machine out of a sports car. (4) \_\_\_\_\_

(Doc doesn't know if the machine really works.) Doc experiments with the machine and that accidentally sends Marty 30 years back into the past. There he meets his teenage parents, but he soon discovers that his actions can forever change the future. With the help of the young Doc, he finally finds a way to get back to the future.



### More to take away

legacy (n.) = something that exists as a result of things that happened at an earlier time

The brilliant acting of the lead actors is one of the highlights of the film. (5) \_\_\_\_\_

(No one can play the roles better than Fox and Lloyd.) Michael J. Fox brings the role of an ordinary high school student to life, allowing the audience to immerse themselves in the story. Christopher Lloyd's performance as a slightly mad scientist is magnificent. His hilarious wide-eyed expressions and crazy frazzled hair are iconic. (6) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (It is impossible to find other actors who can outperform them.)

The themes of this sci-fi film are thought-provoking. *Back to the Future* is not just a fun story with conventional time travel. (7) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (The film explores other themes.) It discusses growing up. Teenagers race against time to pursue their dreams before maturity catches up. (8) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Family reconciliation is important.)

The rebuilding of relationships between parents and children brings joy and healing to the family.

*Back to the Future* succeeds in combining the elements of science fiction, comedy and romance with inspirational themes. It is no wonder that the award-winning film has become one of the best sci-fi films of all time. (9) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Let's revisit this classic the coming summer.)



### Brain Breaks

#### Is time travel possible?

Answer: It is proved that the faster you travel, the slower you experience time. Some scientists believe time travel is theoretically possible.