



UNIVERSITY OF DJIJEL
FOUNDED IN 1998

Wh-Questions

English II

Faculty of Sciences and Technology
Department of Fundamental Learning

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Definition

- According to Cambridge dictionary:

*“Wh-questions begin with *what, when, where, who, whom, which, whose, why* and *how*. We use them to ask for **information**. The answer **cannot be yes or no**”*

Usage of wh- question words

Wh- question word	Usage (to ask about)
Who	Person
Where	Place
When	Time
What	Information
Which	Specific information/ choice

Usage of wh- question words

Wh- question word	Usage (to ask about)
How	Feeling, technique (by v-ing)
How many	Countable quantity
How much	Uncountable quantity
How often	Frequency (always, never, usually..)
Whose	Possession

Examples of wh-questions

- Who is going to the Library tomorrow?
- When is the doctor's appointment?
- Where are you going to spend your holiday?
- What did you do in class today?
- Which book did you decide to buy?
- Whose book is this?

Examples of wh-question

- How do you feel now?
- How do you turn the machine on?
- How many tests do you have?
- How much does this jacket cost?
- How often do you visit your grandparents?

Wh-questions with a question word for the subject

- Sentence: Subject+ the rest of the sentence
- Question: **Wh-word**+ the rest of the sentence
- Ali is in the lab.
- Who is in the lab?

Wh-questions with a question word for the subject

- Sara gave me this notebook.
- Who gave you this notebook?
- Thousands of satellites revolve around planet Earth.
- How many satellites revolve around planet Earth?

Wh-questions with a question word for the subject

- Salma doesn't want to study.
- Who doesn't want to study?
- Algeria is the largest country in Africa.
- What is the largest country in Africa?

Wh-questions with a question word for the object

- Case 1: wh-questions with to be, modals, and auxiliaries
- Question: **wh-word** + **first verb/model** + **subject** + rest of sentence.
- I'm an engineer.
- She will come tomorrow.
- They are studying math.
- They have studied math.

Wh-questions with a question word for the object

- She is the doctor.
- **wh-word** + **first verb**/model + **subject** + rest of sentence
- **Who** **is** **She**?

Wh-questions with a question word for the object

- My birthday is tomorrow.
- **wh-word** + **first verb**/model + **subject** + rest of sentence
- **When** **is** **your birthday**?

Wh-questions with a question word for the object

- They can come today.
- **wh-word** + first verb/**model** + **subject** + rest of sentence
- **When** **can** **they** come?
- Models include: May, might, will, would, shall, should, must

Wh-questions with a question word for the object

- Layla will study physics.
- **wh-word** + first verb/**model** + **subject** + rest of sentence
- **What** **will** **Layla** study?

Wh-questions with a question word for the object

- Ahmed is playing tennis.
- wh-word + first verb/model + subject + rest of sentence
- What is Ahmed playing?
- Auxiliaries: am, is, are, was, were, have, has, had

Wh-questions with a question word for the object

- The children were doing their homework.
- **wh-word** + **first verb**/model + **subject** + rest of sentence
- **What** **were** **the children** doing?

Wh-questions with a question word for the object

- The students have been studying English since the morning.
- **wh-word** + **first verb**/model + **subject** + rest of sentence
- **What** **have** **the students** been studying since the morning?

Wh-questions with a question word for the object

- Case 2: wh-questions with all other verbs
Question: **wh-word** + **(do, does or did)*** + **subject** + **stem form of the verb**.
- **do or does* for the present tense, *did* for the past tense

Wh-questions with a question word for the object

- They go to the University by bus.
- **wh-word** + (do, does or did) + **subject** + **stem** form of the verb.
- **How** **do** **they** **go** to the University?

Wh-questions with a question word for the object

- I want to buy new markers.
- **wh-word** + (do, does or did) + **subject** + **stem** form of the verb.
- **What** **do** **you** want to buy?

Wh-questions with a question word for the object

- Sally likes to read fiction novels.
- **wh-word** + (do, does or did) + **subject** + **stem**
form of the verb.
- **What** **does** **Sally** **like** to read?

Wh-questions with a question word for the object

- He met his friend at the cinema.
- **wh-word** + (do, does or did) + **subject** + **stem** form of the verb.
- **Who** did **he** meet at the cinema?

Exercise

- He teaches physiology.
- They are students.
- Kamal was in London last week.
- My friend invited me to the party.
- The children are sitting in the garden.
- Peter runs with his friends on Fridays.

Exercise

- They stayed at home.
- They stayed at home.
- Ali works in the company everyday.
- Ali works in the company everyday.
- Ali works in the company everyday.

Exercise

- Ali is working in the factory.
- Ali is working in the factory.
- He repaired everything carefully.