



Faculty of letters and languages

French department

Module: English

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1st year students

## Question Words

### “WH” Question Words:

In the English language, there are “Yes/No” questions and “Wh-” questions.

Question words are also called “wh-” questions because these words include the letters ‘W’ and ‘H’.

**Wh-** questions start with **what, when, where, who, whom, which, whose, why** and **how**.

You use them to ask for information. The answer cannot be yes or no for those questions.

i.e: Where are you from? – Yes, I am. (wrong)

Question Words	Function	Examples
<b>What</b>	asking for <b>information</b> about something asking for <b>repetition</b> or <b>confirmation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>What</b> is her name?</li><li>• <b>What?</b> I can’t understand you.</li><li>• He did <b>what</b>?</li></ul>
<b>What...for</b>	asking for a <b>reason</b> , asking why	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>What</b> did you do that <b>for</b>?</li></ul>
<b>When</b>	asking about <b>time</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>When</b> did she come?</li></ul>
<b>Where</b>	asking in or at what <b>place</b> or <b>position</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Where</b> do you live?</li></ul>
<b>Which</b>	asking about <b>choice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Which</b> book do you want?</li></ul>
<b>Who</b>	asking what or which <b>person</b> or <b>people</b> ( <b>subject</b> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Who</b> opened the window?</li></ul>
<b>Whom</b>	asking what or which <b>person</b> or <b>people</b> ( <b>object</b> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Whom</b> did you call ?</li></ul>
<b>Whose</b>	asking about <b>ownership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Whose</b> are these shoes?</li><li>• <b>Whose</b> turn is it?</li></ul>
<b>Why</b>	asking for <b>reason</b> , asking <b>what...for</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Why</b> do you talk like this?</li></ul>

<b>Why don't</b>	making a suggestion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Why don't</b> you help me?</li> </ul>
<b>How</b>	asking about <b>manner</b> asking about <b>condition</b> or <b>quality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>How</b> does it work?</li> <li>● <b>How</b> was your exam?</li> </ul>

## How Question Words:

Asking for a way, manner or form. For example: How does it work?, How can I go?

	Function	Examples
<b>How Many</b>	Asking about <b>Quantity</b> Used with <b>Countables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>How many</b> people were there ?</li> <li>● <b>How many</b> apples are on the table ?</li> </ul>
<b>How Often</b>	Asking about <b>Frequency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>How often</b> do you visit your mother ?</li> </ul>
<b>How Far</b>	Asking about <b>Distance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>How far</b> is the gas station from here ?</li> </ul>
<b>How Long</b>	Asking about <b>Length (Time or Space)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>How long</b> has he slept ?</li> </ul>
<b>How Much</b>	Asking about <b>Quantity</b> Used with <b>Uncountables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>How much</b> money do you have ?</li> <li>● <b>How much</b> sugar is in an apple ?</li> </ul>
<b>How Old</b>	Asking about <b>Age</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>How old</b> is Queen Elizabeth ?</li> </ul>