

Who, what, which

1 We use **who** to ask about people:

A: *Who are you going to visit?*

B: *I'm going to visit my sister.*

Who did Jane invite to her party?

2 We use **what** and **which** to ask about things:

What film did you see at the cinema?

Which newspaper do you want, The Times or the Daily Telegraph?

We normally use **what** when there are many possible answers:



We normally use **which** when there is a small number of possible answers:

Which name do you prefer? Stephen or Thomas?



3 When we form questions, we normally put a form of **be** or an auxiliary verb (e.g. **can, will, do**) after **who, what** and **which**:

Who is the President of Peru?

Who can speak Chinese?

Who did you meet at the party?

What's the capital of India? ~ New Delhi.

What's she doing?

What was the name of your teacher?

What does your father do?

Which car will you buy, the Fiat or the Ford?

Which shirt do you prefer, the red one or the blue one?

Practice

A Put **who, what** or **which** in the gaps.

QUESTIONS

- ▶ *What* did you eat last night?
- 1 are you writing to?
- 2 restaurant do you prefer, the Pizza Palace or the Spaghetti King?
- 3 's the answer to question 13?
- 4 bus do we take to the museum, the number 24 or the number 38?
- 5 did you invite to the party?
- 6 are you doing at the weekend?
- 7 pen is yours, the green one or the blue one?
- 8 has been to Africa?
- 9 's the capital of Scotland?
- 10 's the boy in the photo?

ANSWERS

- ~ Fish, peas and potatoes.
- ~ George and Mary.
- ~ The Pizza Palace.
- ~ I don't know.
- ~ The number 38.
- ~ Tony, Steve and Kathryn.
- ~ I'm driving to Bristol.
- ~ The green one.
- ~ I have.
- ~ Edinburgh.
- ~ My cousin.

B Use the words in the box to complete the questions. Use each word once.

is	What	do	Who	is	are	What
did	Who	is	are	Which	were	

- ▶ A: *What* did you do this morning?
- 1 A: Where you buy that painting?

- ~ B: We bought a new car.
- ~ B: We bought it in Mexico.

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| 2 A: Where the nearest bank? | ~ B: In the High Street. |
| 3 A: Why you tired yesterday evening? | ~ B: I worked very hard all day. |
| 4 A: When you get up in the morning? | ~ B: I get up at seven o'clock. |
| 5 A: car do you prefer, the family car
or the sports car? | ~ B: The sports car. |
| 6 A: What they doing? | ~ B: They're playing tennis. |
| 7 A: did you meet at the station? | ~ B: I met Jane. |
| 8 A: Who they? | ~ B: They're my sisters. |
| 9 A: is the name of the hotel? | ~ B: It's called the Bridge Hotel. |
| 10 A: does she like best? | ~ B: Tom. |
| 11 A: Who the richest person in the world? | ~ B: I don't know! |
| 12 A: Which film better? | ~ B: The French one. |

C Complete the questions. (We usually use the short, underlined answers when we reply to a question.)

- ▶ A: Which song do you prefer?
B: (I prefer) The Spanish song.
- 1 A: What ?
B: (She bought) Bread and milk.
- 2 A: Which ?
B: (They use) The blue book.
- 3 A: What ?
B: (I saw) The Arc de Triomphe and the Eiffel Tower. (in Paris)
- 4 A: Who ?
B: (I met) My aunt and uncle. (at the airport)
- 5 A: Which ?
B: (I am catching) The 13.30. (train)
- 6 A: Who ?
B: (I will visit) My sister and her family. (in Paris)

D Write questions to match the answers. Begin your questions with *who*, *what* or *which*.

- ▶ Who is he?
He's my brother.
- 1 ?
Jack drinks coffee in the morning
- 2 ?
I'm going to see a film tomorrow.
- 3 ?
They are playing cricket.
- 4 ?
I prefer the blue book.
- 5 ?
She likes Peter.
- 6 ?
He bought the small car.