

Where, when, why, how

1 Where, when, why, and how are question words. We use them like this:

► **Where**

We use **where** to ask about places:

Where is Mike? – He's at home.

► **When**

We use **when** to ask about times and dates:

When will you phone? – At six o'clock.

► **Why**

We use **why** to ask about the reason for something:

Why is Mary taking a taxi? – Because her car isn't working.

► **How**

We use **how** to ask 'in what way?':



How did he get to Brighton? ~ He went by train.

We also use **how** to ask about people's health or happiness:

Hello. How are you? ~ I'm fine, thanks.

2 We form questions with **where, when, why** and **how** like this:

► In questions with **be**, we put the subject after **be**:

	be +	SUBJECT	
Why	is	Paul	angry?
Where	are	they?	
Why	is	he	here?

► In questions with an auxiliary verb (**will, is, are, can, must, etc.**), we put the subject after the auxiliary verb:

	VERB +	SUBJECT +	VERB
Why	are	they	leaving?
How	will	she	get there?
When	will	you	phone?

(For auxiliary verbs, see Unit 27.)

► In questions with a Present Simple or Past Simple verb, we put a form of **do** before the subject:

	do +	SUBJECT +	VERB
Where	does	she	live?
Why	did	you	phone the police?
Where	did	he	live?

Practice

A Put the words in brackets () in the right order to make questions.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| ► (you – where – live – do – ?) | <u>Where do you live?</u> |
| 1 (do – get up – you – when – ?) | ..... |
| 2 (she – does – where – come – from – ?) | ..... |
| 3 (leaving – they – are – when – ?) | ..... |
| 4 (he – is – why – waiting – ?) | ..... |
| 5 (are – you – how – ?) | ..... |
| 6 (did – to Scotland – how – get – you – ?) | ..... |
| 7 (is – where – the town centre?) | ..... |
| 8 (Paul – drive – so fast – does – why – ?) | ..... |
| 9 (when – the film – does – start – ?) | ..... |
| 10 (will – how – you – travel – ?) | ..... |
| 11 (is – running – she – why – ?) | ..... |
| 12 (did – where – buy – you – that picture – ?) | ..... |

B Put *where*, *when*, *why* or *how* in the gaps.

- ▶ Where..... are you going? ~ To the shops.
- 1 are you leaving? ~ At six o'clock.
- 2 does she take a taxi to work? ~ Because she doesn't have a car.
- 3 did they get to France? ~ By boat.
- 4 is he studying Spanish? ~ Because he wants to work in Spain.
- 5 do you have breakfast? ~ At half past seven.
- 6 is the restaurant? ~ In Carlton Street.
- 7 are you feeling today? ~ I've got a headache.
- 8 did she buy that dictionary? ~ In the bookshop near the station.
- 9 did Pam go to the police? ~ Because she lost her passport.

C Use the 'full' answers to write questions with *where*, *when*, *why* or *how*.
(We usually use the short, underlined answers when we reply to a question.)

- ▶ Question: When did you lose your bag?
Answer: (I lost my bag) On Saturday morning.
- 1 Question:
Answer: (I met Joanna) At a disco in the centre of town.
- 2 Question:
Answer: (I went to the disco) By bus.
- 3 Question:
Answer: (I'm looking for a new job) Because I want more money.
- 4 Question:
Answer: (The nearest hospital is) In Park Street.
- 5 Question:
Answer: (You get to Park Street) On the number 38 bus.
- 6 Question:
Answer: (They're going to see the film) On Friday evening.
- 7 Question:
Answer: (She left the party at ten o'clock) Because she was tired.
- 8 Question:
Answer: (He's studying English) At a language school in Edinburgh.

D If the underlined words are wrong, change them. Put a tick (✓) if they are right.

- ▶ How is ~~does~~..... she get to work in the mornings?
- ▶ Where do ✓..... you normally go for your holidays?
- 1 How is..... your father?
- 2 Why do..... you working so hard at the moment?
- 3 When does..... she finish work yesterday afternoon?
- 4 Why do..... you go to the bank every day?
- 5 Where does..... Peter yesterday?
- 6 Where do..... Mike live?
- 7 How do..... you get from the art gallery to the swimming pool?