

Question Words

(who/what/when/where/how/which)

Question words are used to ask about specific qualities, times, places, people, etc. They are different from yes / no questions (Do you live in France?). This chart provides question words, the use and example sentences. Study the question words, understand the uses and then look at the examples. Try to think of a few examples of your own.

Who

Use: Asking about people

- Who do you like?
- Who studies Russian?

What

Use: Asking about things or activities

- What does he do at weekends?
- What is that?

What kind of / type of

Use: Asking about specific things or characteristics

- What type of car do you drive?
- What kind of person is he?

What time

Use: Asking for a specific time

- What time is it?
- What time does the show begin?

What ...like

Use: Asking about characteristics

- What was the weather like?
- What is Mary like?

When

Use: Asking about general or specific times

- When do you like going out?
- When does the bus leave?

Where

Use: Asking about places

- Where do you live?
- Where did you go on vacation?

How

Use: Comes with many words to ask questions about specific characteristics, qualities, quantities, etc.

For example: How much (price, quantity), How long (length), How often (frequency)

- How often do you go to the movies?
- How long was the film?
- How much does it cost?

Which

Use: Asking to specify a thing or person from a number of things or people

- Which book did you buy?
- Which boy won the race?

Practice:

Choose the correct answer from a , b, c, or d:

1. _____ time is it now? It's nine o'clock.

- a- What
- b- Where
- c- When
- d- Why

2. _____ is reading in the library? Sue is reading in the library.

- a- Where
- b- What
- c- Who
- d- When

3. _____ does Mary get up in the morning? At six o'clock.

- a- Why
- b- When
- c- Where
- d- Why

4. _____ are you going? I'm going to the market.

- a- Who
- b- When
- c- Where
- d- What

5. _____ is your school? It is near the post office.

- a- Where
- b- What
- c- When
- d- Why

6. _____ did it take you to finish the exam?

- a- How often
- b- How far
- c- How long
- d- How much

7. _____ luggage are you going to take?

- a- How much
- b- How many
- c- How
- d- How far

8. _____ should we go before we find a place to stop and rest for a while?

- a- How often
- b- How much
- c- How far
- d- How

9. _____ do you go to the movies?

- a. What
- b. How often
- c. Which
- d. Who

10. _____ of food do you enjoy eating?

- a. Which
- b. Where
- c. What type
- d. Why

11. Where _____ you from?

- a. are
- b. do
- c. is
- d. did

12. _____ she a teacher?

- a. Are
- b. Does
- c. Is
- d. Was

13. Where _____ you yesterday?

- a. are
- b. were
- c. was
- d. did

14. Where _____ she born?

- a. is
- b. are
- c. were
- d. was

15. When _____ you last speak to Tom?

- a. did
- b. do
- c. were
- d. does

16. _____ there any cheese left?

- a. Are
- b. Is
- c. Do
- d. Were

17. _____ there many people in the theatre last night?

- a. Was
- b. Did
- c. Were
- d. Are

18. _____ you come here often?

- a. Do
- b. Does
- c. Are
- d. Were

19. How long _____ it take to get there?

- a. is
- b. are
- c. does
- d. was

20. Where _____ you this morning?

- a. was
- b. are
- c. is
- d. were