

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 – ?)

Where do you live?

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?