

# 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<br>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.