

Wh-questions part 1 – verb BE, CAN, MUST

a) What do you say when you do not understand what somebody said?

What? Sorry? Excuse me? Repeat that, please.

Then the other person will repeat **everything** he or she said.

However, it is more effective to **ask a wh-question**: then the other person knows exactly what you did not understand, and he or she will repeat **only the information that you need** to hear again, or explain what it means, or use easier words.

b) Copy these instructions and examples in your notebook.

How to ask wh-questions:

1. Begin your question with a wh-word or phrase that refers to the **unknown information**.
2. Put the **auxiliary verb** in front of the **subject**.

Verb BE: **The ship** **is** **in the Mediterranean** now.

Where **is** **the ship** now?

Verb CAN: **My brother** **can speak** **three** languages.

How many languages **can** **your brother** **speak**?

Verb MUST: **We** **must revise** the irregular verbs **today**.

When **must** **we/you** **revise** the irregular verbs?

3. If the unknown information is the subject, use the same word order as in the affirmative structure (S + V):

Kevin **is** in the garden.

Who **is** in the garden?

c) Write wh-questions so that the underlined information is the answer.
Use these wh-words:

how old, how many, how much, what,
when, where, which, who, whose, why

1. The books are on the table.
2. The maths exam is tomorrow.
3. We must write six sentences.
4. You can use a dictionary to check the spelling.
5. I am fourteen years old.
6. You are number three.
7. This exercise is difficult because it is very long.
8. Mr. Robinson is my maths teacher.
9. This T-shirt is £48.
10. Those shoes are Robert's.