# Questions / Short Answers

12

38 **Listen and repeat. Then act out.**

## Yes/No Questions

**Questions with Yes/No answers begin with an auxiliary or modal verb (is, are, do, does, have, has, can, must, will, etc.) We use do/does to form questions in present simple and did to form questions in past simple.**

*She is studying.* → ***Is she*** *studying?*
*He hates bowling.* → ***Does he hate*** *bowling?*
*(NOT: ~~Does he hates~~ bowling?)*
*Kim left an hour ago.* → ***Did Kim leave*** *an hour ago? (NOT: ~~Did Kim left~~ an hour ago?)*

## Wh- Questions

**Wh- questions begin with a question word such as (who, what, where, why, when, whose, which, how, etc.). We put the auxiliary or modal verb before the subject.**

**question word + auxiliary/modal + subject**

*"**What** did you buy?" "A scarf."*
*"**How** do you get to work?" "By bus."*

**When there is a preposition, it usually goes at the end of the question, though in formal English it can be put before the question word.**

***Who** is this letter **from**?* (more usual)
***From whom** is this letter?* (formal)

**We use questions to ask for *information* or *permission*. We also use questions to make *suggestions*, *requests*, *offers* or *invitations*.**

**Asking for information:** *"How much does it cost?" "£10."*
**Asking for permission:** *"May I use your phone?" "Of course you may."*
**Making suggestions:** *"Shall we have a party?" "Yes, let's."*
**Making requests:** *"Could you carry this for me, please?" "Yes, of course."*
**Making offers:** *"Would you like some orange juice?" "Yes, please."*
**Making invitations:** *"Would you like to spend this weekend with us?" "Yes, I'd love to."*

**1** **First form questions, then write the speech situation for each question: asking for information/permission, or making suggestions/requests/offers/invitations.**

1 (we invite/David to dinner tonight?) *Shall we invite David to dinner tonight? (suggestion)*
2 (you want/a biscuit?) .....
3 (how far/it be from your house to the station?) .....
4 (you like/come sailing at the weekend?) .....
5 (I have/a look at your newspaper?) .....
6 (you like/come to the cinema?) .....
7 (you help/me with my bags, please?) .....
8 (we have/a party for your birthday?) .....
9 (who/you meet at the coffee shop yesterday?) .....



LIVEWORKSHEETS

# 12 Questions / Short Answers

- **We normally use the following question words to ask about:**

| people | things/animals/actions | place | time | quantity | manner | reason |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Who<br>Whose<br>Which<br>What | What<br>Which | Where | When<br>How long<br>What time<br>How often | How much<br>How many | How | Why |

- **Who is used without a noun to ask about people.** ***Who*** *wrote "Gone with the Wind"?*
- **Whose is used to express possession.** ***Whose*** *gloves are these? They're Tony's.*
- **Which is used for people, animals or things alone or before nouns, one/ones or of.** ***Which*** *is their office?* ***Which coat*** *is his? I've got two dictionaries.* ***Which one*** *would you like to use?* ***Which of*** *these applicants will be called for an interview?*
  **Which is normally used when there is a limited choice of answers.** ***Which*** *is your favourite ice cream flavour – vanilla or strawberry?* (there are only two kinds of ice cream flavours to choose from – limited choice)
  **Which can also be used with the comparative and superlative.** ***Which*** *is* ***cheaper****, a saloon car or a convertible?* ***Which*** *is* ***the easiest*** *way to do it?*
- **What is used alone or before a noun to ask about things.** ***What*** *can I do for you?* ***What*** *size shoes do you wear?* **What is also used for people, animals and things when there is an unlimited choice of answers.** ***What*** *kind of films do you enjoy watching?* (there are many films to choose from - unlimited choice)
- **What can also be used in these patterns:** ***What ... like? What ... for? What colour? What size? What kind/sort? What time? What is he like? What is it used for?*** **etc.** ***What*** *are you waiting here* ***for****?*
- **What + be ... like asks for a description of** ***someone's character*****; what ... look like asks for a description of** ***physical appearance.*** ***What is*** *Fiona* ***like****? She's kind and helpful.* ***What does*** *Fiona* ***look like****? She's tall and slim.*
- **What and which are sometimes both possible.** ***What/Which*** *subjects do you teach?*
- **Where is used to ask about a place.** ***Where*** *is my handbag? On your desk.*
- **When is used to ask about time.** ***When*** *is your birthday? On 3rd July.*
- **Why is used to ask about the reason why something happens/happened.** ***Why*** *are you happy? Because I got a new car.*
- **How is used alone or before an adjective/adverb.** ***How*** *was the party? Amazing.* ***How*** *old is Tanya? She's fifteen.* ***How*** *fast can your car go? Very fast.*
- **How long is used to ask about a time period.** ***How long*** *does it take you to get to work? Thirty minutes.*
- **How often is used to ask about frequency.** ***How often*** *do you play tennis? Twice a week.*
- **How much is used with uncountable nouns.** ***How much*** *flour do you need? Very little.*
- **How many is used with countable nouns.** ***How many*** *apples do you want? Two.*

## 2 Fill in: *when, which, who, whose, what, how much, how often, what time, where* or *how long*.

1 A: ...Who... has been wearing my coat?
B: Sue has.
2 A: ..... pencil case is this?
B: It's John's.
3 A: ..... one of you is the tallest?
B: I am.
4 A: ..... size are your shoes?
B: Size 5.
5 A: ..... did you go on holiday?
B: I went to the Caribbean.
6 A: ..... did you start French lessons?
B: Two years ago.
7 A: ..... have you lived in America?
B: Three years.
8 A: ..... do you go to the cinema?
B: About once a month.
9 A: ..... does the film start?
B: At 7 o'clock.
10 A: ..... cheese would you like?
B: 400 grams please.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

## 3 Write questions to which the words in bold are the answers.

1 It costs **ten pounds**.
*How much does it cost?*
2 Janet lives **in the centre of London**.
3 I wash my hair **three times a week**.
4 **Her friend** rented a new flat.
5 Ann is **friendly**.
6 **Mrs Brown** wants to see Sally.
7 The weather is **hot** today.
8 He has worked here **for twelve years**.
9 It takes **two hours** to get from here to London.
10 This CD costs **£9**.

## 4 Fill in: *which* or *what*.

Jane: 1) *What* shall we do this evening, Lisa?
Lisa: I'm not sure. Do you want to go to the cinema?
Jane: That's a good idea. But 2) ..... one – CineWorld or Cineplex?
Lisa: I really don't mind. 3) ..... one would you like to go to?
Jane: Well, it depends. 4) ..... films are they showing at the moment?
Lisa: I think CineWorld is showing the new James Bond film and Cineplex is showing Ben Stiller's new comedy.
Jane: Ben Stiller? 5) ..... does he look like?
Lisa: He's quite short with black hair. He was in *Tropic Thunder*.
Jane: Oh, I know him! So, 6) ..... would you prefer – an action film or a comedy?
Lisa: I think probably a comedy. 7) ..... about you?
Jane: Yes, I agree. Ben Stiller is always very funny.
Lisa: Great. Well, let's go to Cineplex then. 8) ..... time does the film start?
Jane: In half an hour. We'd better go soon.
Lisa: OK, let's go now. But 9) ..... is the quickest way to get there?
Jane: Well, we could take the train, but I don't know 10) ..... station to get off at.
Lisa: It's near Victoria Station. Don't worry; I know how to get there.

## 5 Write questions to which the words in bold are the answers.

**J.K. Rowling** is a British writer. She was born **near Bristol in England**. When she was young, Rowling loved **reading novels**. She studied **French** at university and worked as a teacher **in Portugal** for a short time. Then, **in 1990** she got the idea to write a novel about a young wizard called Harry Potter. Rowling's first book was called ***Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*** and was published in 1997. Since then, Rowling has written **six more *Harry Potter* books** and she is now one of the most successful writers in the world.

1 Who *is a British writer?*
2 Where .....
3 What .....
4 What .....
5 Where .....
6 When .....
7 What .....
8 How many .....



LIVEWORKSHEETS