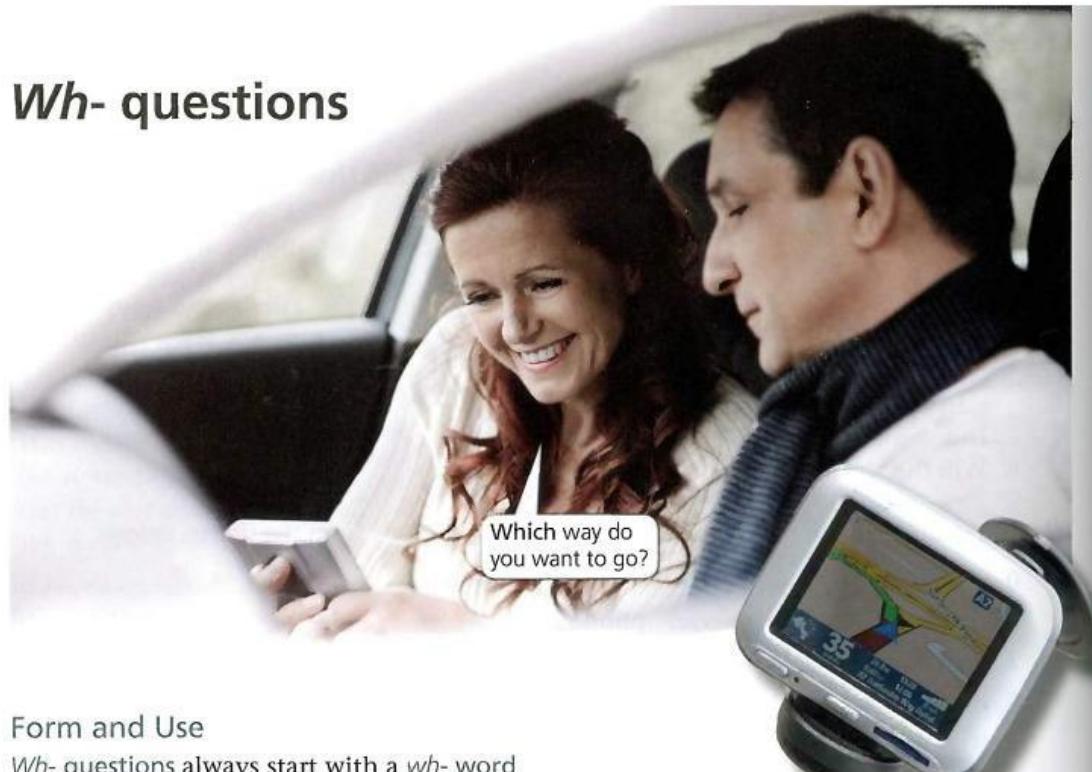


78 Wh- questions



1 Form and Use

Wh- questions always start with a *wh*- word (*who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *how*, *which*, *why*, *whose*):

Which way do you want to go?
Who are you going to invite?

statement	<i>The paper is here.</i>	<i>It starts at 8.00.</i>	<i>They ate a pizza.</i>	<i>They can see her.</i>
question	<i>Where is the paper?</i>	<i>When does it start?</i>	<i>What did they eat?</i>	<i>Who can they see?</i>



We form simple *wh*- questions with *be*, an auxiliary verb or a modal verb BEFORE the subject:

- ~~X~~ *Where you live?*
- ✓ *Where do you live?*
- ~~X~~ *Where you are going?*
- ✓ *Where are you going?*
- ~~X~~ *When they will arrive?*
- ✓ *When will they arrive?*
- ~~X~~ *How old he is?*
- ✓ *How old is he?*

Wh- questions ask for information:

'*Where does the bus stop?*' 'Outside the post office.'
'*Which book are you reading?*' 'It's the new John le Carré book.'

We can also use negative questions with *wh*- question words:
'*I don't understand this question.*' '*What don't you understand?*'
'*Rowan didn't come to my party.*' '*Why didn't he come?*'



We usually say *wh*- questions with a falling intonation (↘): *What's the time?*

Practice

1 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Read the information about a new DVD recorder. Then complete the questions with the phrases from the box.

How can How many What can Where can Why is Why should

Generation X

0 *Why should* I buy the **Generation X** DVD recorder?

– That's simple – because it's the most modern and best new DVD recorder!

1 *.....* the **Generation X** recorder more expensive than most of the others?

– Well, it's only a little more expensive ... and it is better than most others, for example, it can store more films.

2 *.....* films can the **Generation X** recorder store?

– About 100. It depends on how long the films are.

3 *.....* I use my old videos with this machine?

– If you have a video recorder, you can connect it to the DVD recorder and record your videos.

4 *.....* I do if something goes wrong?

– You can send it to us or take it back to the shop where you bought it.

5 *.....* I buy the **Generation X** recorder?

– In all good department stores and electrical shops.

2 Make questions from the statements.

0 I'm not sure where the nearest bank is. *Where is the nearest bank?*
1 I'm not sure where we're staying.
2 I'm not sure how we get to the station.
3 I'm not sure what time the plane arrived.
4 I'm not sure what kind of computer she wants.
5 You didn't phone me. I don't know why.
6 I'm not sure which class I'm in.

3 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the job interview with questions. Use the words in brackets () .

A Right. Do you have any questions about the job?
B Yes, I do, actually. (0) *What time do you start* (what time / you / start) in the morning?
A We open at 9.30 and the assistants have to be here at 9.00 or 8.30 on Thursdays.
B Oh, (1) (why / they / not start at 9.00) on Thursdays?
A Well, it's because we have staff training from 8.30 to 9.00.
B Oh, OK, thanks. And (2) (when / the shop / close)?
A It closes at 5.30 most evenings, but it's 6.00 on Friday and Saturday.
B (3) (how long / be / the lunch break)?
A It's an hour, with a 15-minute coffee break in the morning and afternoon.
B (4) (how much / be / the staff discount)?
A We give our staff a discount of 20% on all our clothes and shoes.
B That's good. If I get this job, (5) (who / be / my manager)?
A One of the senior staff will be your manager, and will train you.
B OK. (6) (when / you / tell me) if I've got the job?
A We'll try to contact everyone by the end of next week.