

# 79 who, when, where, why



## 1 who, when, where, why

Wh- WORD	USE	EXAMPLE
who	asks about a person or people	Who's your teacher this year?
when	asks about time	When did you get it?
where	asks about place	Where can we put it?
why	asks for a reason	Why do we need it?

After *who*, *when*, *where* or *why* in questions, we need a verb:

*Who is the best actor in the film?*

*Why did the Romans come to Britain?*

- ! We cannot put a noun after them:  
 X *Where place does the president live?*  
 ✓ *Where does the president live?*

## 2 Wh- questions + prepositions

If there is a verb + preposition in a statement, we often need to use the preposition at the end of a *wh-* question:

*They're talking about the director.* → *Who are they talking about?*

- ! *Angelo is writing to his friend.* X *Who is Angelo writing?*  
 ✓ *Who is Angelo writing to?*

But with *when* and *where* questions, we don't usually put a preposition at the end of the question:

*I was born in London. Where were you born?*

*I was born on 30 August. When were you born?*

*I'm going to the cinema. Where are you going?*

- ! But we say: *'Where are you from?' 'I'm from Paris.'*

# Practice

**GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the questions in the conversation with a suitable *wh-* word.

- A I'm calling about your home cinema, Ms Jenkins.  
 (0) .... *Where* ..... shall we deliver it? Is it the same address as on the receipt?
- B Yes, that's right.
- A And (1) ..... is it best to deliver, morning or afternoon?
- B Oh, afternoon, definitely.
- A And (2) ..... will be at the address to receive it?
- B I'll probably be there.
- A If no one is at home, (3) ..... can our driver leave it?  
 Can he put it in the garage?
- B Oh, no. If I know the date, I'll definitely be there.
- A OK, so (4) ..... would you like it? Would next Friday be OK?
- B Yes, that's fine. Oh, (5) ..... should I give the cheque to? Shall I give it to the driver?
- A Yes, that's fine. Finally, for our records, (6) ..... did you choose this product?
- B Well, because it looks good and it wasn't too expensive.

Write a *wh-* word in each question. Then match the questions and answers A–F.

- 0 .... *Who* ..... was the first woman in space? ... *D* .....
- 1 ..... did dinosaurs live on the Earth? .....
- 2 ..... did Arthur Conan Doyle write about? .....
- 3 ..... did Christopher Columbus sail to America? .....
- 4 ..... do giant pandas come from? .....
- 5 ..... didn't Magellan finish his round-the-world journey? .....

- A Sherlock Holmes.  
 B Because he died in a fight in the Philippines.  
 C From China.  
**D** Valentina Tereshkova  
 E In 1492.  
 F Millions of years ago.



3 Write the questions for the underlined parts of the answers. Use the words below to help you. Use prepositions if necessary.

- |                  |                                  |   |
|------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 0 (the film)     | <i>When does the film start?</i> | It starts <u>at 8.15</u> .                    |
| 1 (your manager) | .....                            | He works <u>in the office in the corner</u> . |
| 2 (the kitten)   | .....                            | It belongs <u>to my sister</u> .              |
| 3 (my address)   | .....                            | <u>Because I need it for our records</u> .    |
| 4 (my homework)  | .....                            | I want it <u>on Friday</u> .                  |
| 5 (the letter)   | .....                            | Send it <u>to the Managing Director</u> .     |