9 Granny Stops Museum Thief!

Discover Grammar

A Listen and read. 20

The police thanked 86-year-old grandmother Mavis Jones yesterday for stopping a robbery at the City Art Museum. We interviewed Mavis:

Why did you go to the museum?
I went because it's nice and warm. I go there every afternoon.

Who did you go with?
I went by myself.

Where did you see the robber?
He was in the Italian art room, in a long black coat. I was suspicious. It was a sunny day. Why did he need a coat?

What did you do?
I hid behind a statue. I saw him take a painting and put it under his coat!

How did you stop him?
I shouted, "Hey! You stop that, young man!" He started to run. So I tripped him with my cane. Then I sat on him. I shouted, "Help, thief!" I have quite a loud voice, you know.

Who helped you?
The security guards! They ran in and rescued the picture. Then they called the police. It was very exciting!

Congratulations, Mavis. You are our hero!

B Read again and underline the question words.

C Act it out. Work with a partner. Practice asking the questions.

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Learn Grammar

A **Read and learn.**

Asking Questions

Questions which ask for information begin with question words: *what, where, when, why, who, whose, which, how*. The question word comes first, then a form of the verb *to be* or the auxiliary verb, and then the subject.

TIP Auxiliary verbs are *have, will, would, can, could, shall, should, may, might,* and *must*.

The thief was in the art room. → *Where was the thief?*

And when there is no auxiliary verb, use *do* or *did* to make a question.

Mavis goes to the museum. → *When does Mavis go to the museum?*
They stopped the thief. → *How did they stop the thief?*

Subject / Object Questions

- Look at these sentences.

  Who stole the picture? *The thief stole the picture.*
  What happened next? *Something exciting happened.*
  Who stopped the thief? *Mavis stopped the thief.*

  In the questions, the verb is the same as it is in the affirmative sentence, and the word order does not change. The question word is the subject of the affirmative sentence.

- Look at these sentences.

  Who did Mavis stop? *Mavis stopped the thief.*
  (*Mavis* is the subject. *Who* is the object.)

In the question above, the question word is the object of the sentence.
Make the question with a form of *do*. Compare:

Somebody stopped the thief. Who?
Who stopped the thief? (*Who* is the subject.)

Mavis stopped somebody. Who?
Who did Mavis stop? (*Who* is the object.)

B **Find the two questions with *Who* in the story. Write in the order you find them in the story.**

1 _____

Who is the object of the sentence.

2 _____

Who is the subject of the sentence.

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C Read the questions and answers. Choose the correct question words.

What Where Who Why When

1 _____ is the museum? It's in the center of the city.
2 _____ likes to go there? Mavis does.
3 _____ does she usually go? She goes there every day, in the afternoon.
4 _____ does she do in the museum? She looks at the pictures.
5 _____ does she like it? Because the pictures are beautiful, and the museum is warm!

D Write the question words.

1 Mavis went to the museum.
_____ went to the museum?
_____ did Mavis go?

2 Mavis loves art.
_____ loves art?
_____ does Mavis love?

3 Picasso painted the picture.
_____ painted the picture?
_____ did Picasso paint?

4 The museum is next to the Town Hall.
_____ is the museum?
_____ is next to the Town Hall?

5 Mavis shouted loudly.
_____ shouted loudly?
_____ did she shout?

6 Everyone cheered Mavis!
_____ cheered Mavis?
_____ did everyone cheer?

E Reorder the words to make subject questions. Then match them to the answers. Read the story on page 44 again if you need help.

1 the / where / was / thief / ?
_____

2 watched / thief / the / who / ?
_____

3 ran / the / to / exit / who / ?
_____

4 her / for / help / thanked / who / Mavis / ?
_____

5 Mavis / who / helped / ?
_____

a Mavis watched him.

b In the Italian Art room.

c The security guards did.

d The thief did.

e The police did.

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F **Listen and read. Complete with question words. Then listen again to check your answers.** 21

Police officer OK, everyone. Listen, please. Mavis Jones will answer questions now.
Journalist 1 _____ do you go to the City Art Museum, Mrs. Jones?
Mavis I go there every afternoon. It's my favorite place in town.
Journalist 2 _____ did you stop the thief?
Mavis I used my cane. And then I sat on top of him. I was really mad!
Journalist 3 _____ happened next?
Mavis I called for help, and the security guards came in. They found the picture, and they helped me stand up!
Journalist 4 _____ called the police? You or the guards?
Mavis The guards called the police. I don't have one of those cell phones.
Police officer Thank you, everyone. That's all we have time for now …

G **Underline the two subject questions and circle the two object questions in exercise F.**

H **Read the sentences. Write questions with question words. Use *does*.**

1 Where _____? Mavis lives near the City Art Museum.
2 When _____? She goes to the museum in the afternoon.
3 What _____? She looks at the Italian Art.
4 Who _____? She doesn't meet anyone.

I **Write questions. Ask about the words in *italics*.**

1 Who used her cane? _____ *Mavis* used her cane.
2 What did she use to stop the thief? _____ Mavis used *her cane* to stop the thief.
3 _____ *The thief* wore a long black coat.
4 _____ The thief wore *a long black coat*.
5 _____ The thief stole *a picture*.
6 _____ *The thief* stole a picture.
7 _____ *The security guards* helped Mavis.
8 _____ The security guards helped *Mavis*.

Let's Talk!

J **Work with a partner. Interview your partner about a vacation. Write six questions to ask your partner. You can use *who, what, when, where, how*. Try to write subject and object questions. Then take turns asking your questions.**

Who went with you on vacation? Where did you go? What did you see?

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