

# Wh- Questions

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## What are the WH question words?

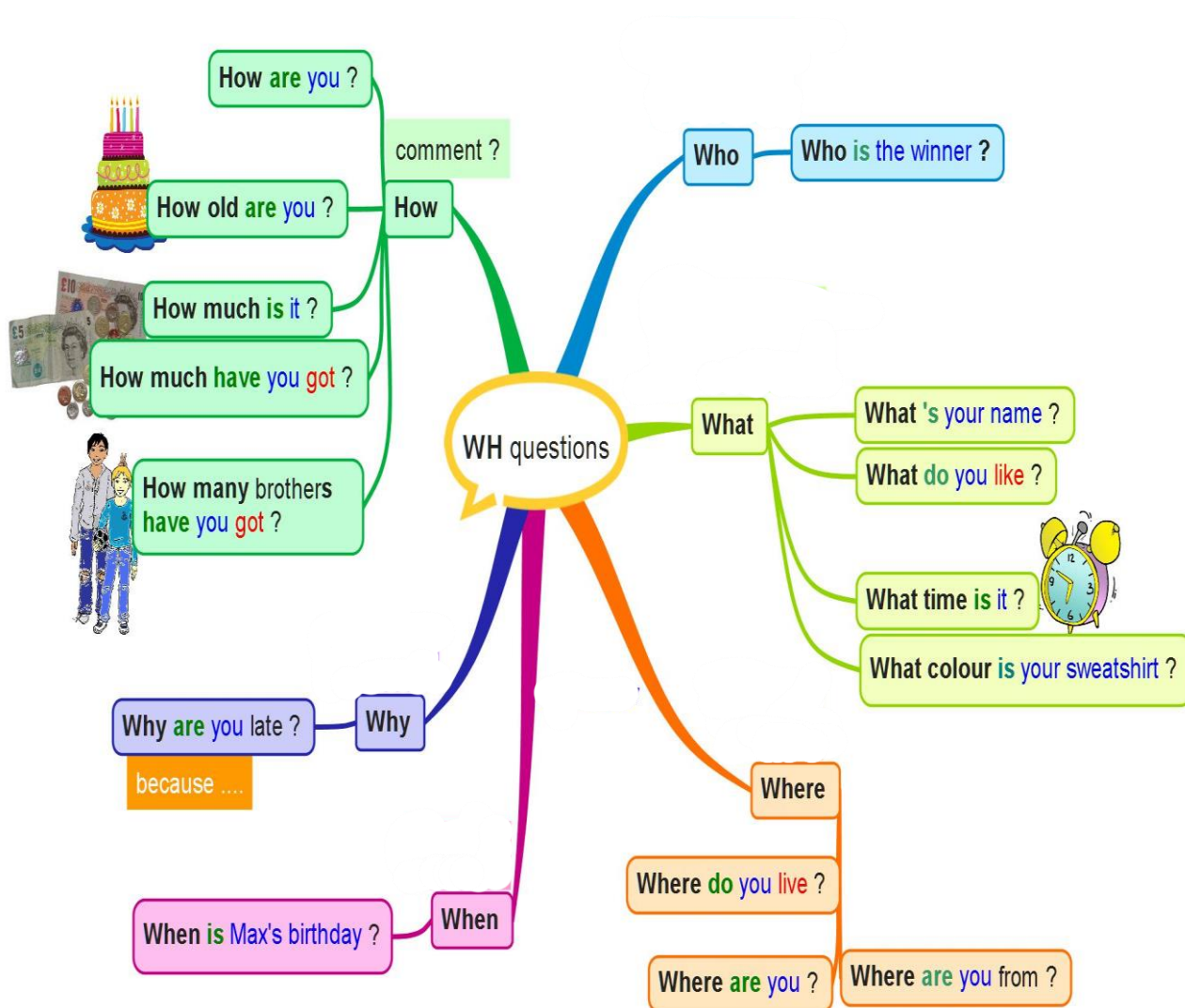


In the English language, there are ‘Yes/No’ questions and ‘Wh-’ questions.

**Question words** are also called ‘wh-’ questions because these words include the letters ‘W’ and ‘H’.

**Wh-** questions start with **what, when, where, who, whom, why, and how**. You use them to ask for information. The answer to those questions cannot be yes or no. For example:

- Where are you from? – Yes, I am. (*wrong*)



Question Word	Function	Example Sentence
<b>what</b>	asking for <b>information</b> about something	What is her name?
	asking for <b>repetition</b> or <b>confirmation</b>	-What? I can't understand you. -He did what?
<b>what...for</b>	asking for a <b>reason</b> , asking why	What did you do that for?
<b>when</b>	asking about <b>time</b>	When did she come?
<b>where</b>	asking in or at what <b>place</b> or <b>position</b>	Where do you live?
<b>which</b>	asking about <b>choice</b>	Which book do you want?
<b>who</b>	asking what or which person or people ( <b>subject</b> )	Who opened the window?
<b>whom</b>	asking what or which person or people ( <b>object</b> )	Whom did you call?
<b>whose</b>	asking about <b>ownership</b>	-Whose are these shoes? -Whose turn is it?
<b>why</b>	asking for a <b>reason</b> , asking what...for	Why do you talk like this?
<b>why don't</b>	making a <b>suggestion</b>	Why don't you help me?
<b>how</b>	asking about <b>manner</b>	How does it work?
	asking about <b>condition</b> or <b>quality</b>	How was your exam

**How** – Asking for a way, manner, or form. For example: How does it work?, How can I go?

	Sentence	Function Example
<b>How many</b>	Asking about <b>quantity</b>	How many people were there?
	Used with <b>countable nouns</b>	How many apples on the table?
<b>How often</b>	asking about <b>frequency</b>	How often do you visit your mother?
<b>How far</b>	asking about <b>distance</b>	How far is the gas station from here?
<b>How long</b>	asking about <b>length</b> (time or space)	How long has he slept?
<b>How much</b>	asking about <b>quantity</b> used with <b>uncountable nouns</b>	How much money do you have? How much sugar is in an apple?
<b>How old</b>	asking about age	How old is Queen Elizabeth?

## Task

# Wh- Questions

Fill in the spaces with What, What time, Who, Where, How, How old, How many or When. Then match each sentence to the right picture:

- 1- \_\_\_\_\_ is she? She is a girl.
- 2- \_\_\_\_\_ is it? It's five to three.
- 3- \_\_\_\_\_ are they? They are in the school bus.
- 4- \_\_\_\_\_ is it? It's a famous museum.
- 5- \_\_\_\_\_ is Christmas? It's on 25<sup>th</sup> December.
- 6- \_\_\_\_\_ is he? He is nine years old.
- 7- \_\_\_\_\_ are they? They are best friends.
- 8- \_\_\_\_\_ is he? He is a judge.
- 9- \_\_\_\_\_ is she? She is at school.
- 10- \_\_\_\_\_ is he? He is an actor.
- 11- \_\_\_\_\_ are you going? I'm going to the cinema.
- 12- \_\_\_\_\_ are you? I'm sick.
- 13- \_\_\_\_\_ people are there in the picture? Nine.
- 14- \_\_\_\_\_ is he doing? He is writing.
- 15- \_\_\_\_\_ is she doing? She is painting.
- 16- \_\_\_\_\_ is he? He is at the zoo.
- 17- \_\_\_\_\_ is it? It's a lamp.

# Reference

Ward, S., H. (2014). New Headway: Beginner Workbook. Oxford University Press.

<https://www.learnenglishteam.com/wh-question-words-in-english/>

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<https://www.usingenglish.com/files/pdf/wh-questions-for-making-small-talk.pdf>

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