

# What ... ? Which ... ? How ... ?

## A What + noun (What colour ... ? / What kind ... ? etc.)

- **What colour** is your car?      ● **What colour** are your eyes?
- **What size** is this shirt?      ● **What make** is your TV set?
- **What time** is it?      ● **What day** is it today?
- **What kind** of job do you want? (or **What type** of job ... ? / **What sort** of job ... ?)

What without a noun:

- **What's** your favourite colour?      ● **What** do you want to do this evening?

## B Which + noun (things or people):

- **Which train** did you catch – the 9.50 or the 10.30?
- **Which doctor** did you see – Doctor Ellis, Doctor Gray or Doctor Hill?

We use **which** without a noun for things, not people:

- **Which** is bigger – Canada or Australia?

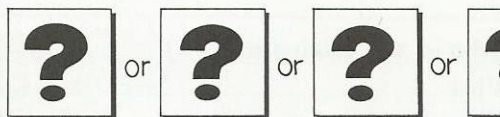
We use **who** for people (without a noun):

- **Who** is taller – Bill or Gerry? (not 'Which is taller?')

## C What or which?

We use **which** when we are thinking about a small number of possibilities (perhaps 2, 3 or 4):

- We can go this way or that way.  
**Which way** shall we go?
- There are four umbrellas here.  
**Which** is yours?



WHICH ?

What is more general:

- **What** is the capital of Argentina?
- **What sort** of music do you like?

Compare:

- **What colour** are his eyes? (not 'Which colour?')
- **Which colour** do you prefer, pink or yellow?
- **What** is the longest river in the world?
- **Which** is the longest river – the Mississippi, the Amazon or the Nile?

## D How ... ?

- **How** was the party last night? 'It was great.'
- **How** do you usually go to work? 'By bus.'

You can use **how** + adjective/adverb (**how tall** / **how old** / **how often** etc.):

<b>'How</b>	{	<b>tall</b> are you? 'I'm 1 metre 70.'
		<b>big</b> is the house? 'Not very big.'
		<b>old</b> is your mother? 'She's 45.'
		<b>far</b> is it from here to the airport? 'Five kilometres.'
		<b>often</b> do you use your car? 'Every day.'
		<b>long</b> have they been married? 'Ten years.'
		<b>much</b> was the meal? 'Twenty pounds.'

EXERCISES

46.1 Write questions with **what**.

- 1 I've got a new TV set.
- 2 I want a job.
- 3 I've got a new sweater.
- 4 I got up early this morning.
- 5 I like music.
- 6 I want to buy a car.

- (make?) What make is it?  
 (kind?) What kind of job do you want?  
 (colour?) What .....
- (time?) ..... get up?  
 (type?) .....  
 (kind?) .....

46.2 Complete the questions. Use **Which ... ?**

46.3 Put in **what/which/who**.

- 1 What is that man's name?
- 2 Which way shall we go? Left or right?
- 3 You can have tea or coffee. .... do you prefer?
- 4 '..... day is it today?' 'Friday.'
- 5 This is a nice house. .... room is yours?
- 6 ..... is your favourite sport?
- 7 ..... is more expensive, meat or fish?
- 8 ..... is older, Ann or George?
- 9 ..... kind of camera have you got?
- 10 A: Mary has got three cameras.  
B: ..... camera does she use most?
- 11 ..... nationality are you?

46.4 Complete the questions with **How + adjective or adverb (high/long etc.)**.

- 1 How high is Mount Everest?
- 2 ..... is it to the station?
- 3 ..... is Helen?
- 4 ..... do the buses run?
- 5 ..... is the water in the pool?
- 6 ..... have you lived here?

- Nearly 9000 metres.  
 It's about two kilometres from here.  
 She's 26.  
 Every ten minutes.  
 Two metres.  
 Nearly three years.

46.5 Write questions with **How ... ?**

- 1 Are you 1 metre 70? 1.75? 1.80? How tall are you?
- 2 Is this box one kilogram? Two? Three? .....
- 3 Are you 20 years old? 22? 25? .....
- 4 Did you spend £10? £15? £20? .....
- 5 Do you watch TV every day? Once a week? Never? .....
- 6 Is it 1000 miles from Paris to Moscow? 1500? 2000? .....



# question words *When will you see her?*

## WHERE IS ...? WHEN CAN ...? WHY DOES ...?

Questions with *where, when, why* etc normally have the same word order as **yes/no questions** (pages 104–105). We put *am/are/is/was/were* or another **auxiliary verb** (*have, will, can* etc) before the **subject**.

STATEMENT **1**: *Anna is in Russia.*

*I will see her on Tuesday.*

QUESTION **2**: *Where is Anna?*

*When will you see her? (NOT When you will see her?)*

If there is **no other auxiliary verb**, we use **do/does/did** + **infinitive** (without *to*).

STATEMENT **3**: *He likes his job.*

*I came here to learn English.*

QUESTION **4**: *How does he like his job?*

*Why did you come here? (NOT Why you came here?)*

### 1 Make questions with the words in the boxes.

how when ✓ when where ✓ where why

- ▶ (you staying?) *'Where are you staying?'* ..... 'At the Park Hotel.'
- ▶ (you arrive?) *'When did you arrive?'* ..... 'Last night.'
- 1 (you here?) ..... 'To see Scotland.'
- 2 (you been today?) ..... 'To Edinburgh.'
- 3 (you going to Glasgow?) ..... 'Next weekend.'
- 4 (you like Scotland?) ..... 'It's great!'

how when when where why

- 5 (you come here?) ..... 'By car.'
- 6 (you come by car?) ..... 'I like driving.'
- 7 (you live?) ..... 'In Germany.'
- 8 (you leaving?) ..... 'Next Tuesday.'
- 9 (we see you again?) ..... 'I'll be back next summer.'

We often ask questions with **how** + **adjective/adverb**.

*How old is your sister? How tall are you? How fast can you run?*

### 2 Here are some common expressions with *how*. Use them to complete the questions.

How old ...? ✓ How far ...? How long ...? How tall ...?  
How big ...? How fast ...? How often ...? How well ...?

- ▶ *How old are* ..... you?' '37 next birthday.'
- 1 '..... your house from here?' 'About 5 km.'
- 2 '..... John?' 'Very tall – nearly two metres.'
- 3 '..... she driving?' 'The police say she was doing 160 km/h.'
- 4 '..... you see your parents?' 'Every week.'
- 5 '..... Petra's flat?' 'Very small – just one room and a bathroom.'
- 6 '..... you stay in China?' 'I was there for six months.'
- 7 '..... you speak Spanish?' 'Not very well.'