

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?*

🔊 Pronunciation ▶ 1.30