81 *how*

1 *how*

The *wh-* word *how* can ask about a lot of different things. We use it to ask about

- the way we do something:
  How do *I open this bottle?* ***How do*** *we get to your house?* ***How do*** *you open the doors?*
- other things, eg:

health (*how* + *be*)	*How are you?*	*I'm fine, thanks.*
	How's your father now?	*He's feeling better, thanks.*
opinion (*how* + *be*)	*How's the soup?*	*It's delicious.*
	How was the party?	*It was great. I enjoyed it.*
news about a person's life	*How's it going?*	*Fine, everything's OK.*
	How did the exam go?	*Fantastic! I passed!*

2 *how* + adjective

We use *how* before adjectives to ask about age, measurements and size:
How old *is Tracey? She's seven. / She's seven* ***years old.***
How long *is the Nile? It's 6650 kilometres* ***long.***
How tall *is the CNN Tower? It's 553 metres* ***tall.***
How deep *is the swimming pool? It's two metres* ***deep.***
How big *is the village? Not very* ***big****, only about 4000 people live there.*

⚠ With exact measurements, we include the adjectives *tall, high, long, wide, deep* in the answer. Look at the word order:
✗ ~~*The CNN Tower is tall 553 metres.*~~ ✓ *The CNN Tower is* ***553 metres tall.***

⚠ The answer to a question asking *How old ... ?* is different:
✗ ~~*My daughter is seven old.*~~ ✗ ~~*My daughter is seven years.*~~
✓ *My daughter is* ***seven.*** ✓ *My daughter is* ***seven years old.***

3 Other common questions with *how*

We also use *how* to ask about:

length of time	*How long is the flight?*	*It's four hours.*
distance	*How far is the station from here?*	*It's half a mile.*
speed	*How fast does it go?*	*Very fast, 250 kilometres an hour!*
frequency	*How often should I take the medicine?*	*Twice a day.*
number	*How many people live on the island?*	*Three thousand.*
amount	*How much water is left?*	*Five bottles.*
price	*How much was the car?*	*It was really expensive!*

⚠ We don't use adverbs (e.g. *fast, often*) after measurements in answers:
✗ ~~*It goes at 250 kilometres an hour fast.*~~ ✓ *It goes at 250 kilometres an hour.*

how much? or *how many?* ➤ Unit 8.3