# ESOL – Question Words - How

This companion document covers the same learning as the interactive session, but in a different way so as to be more accessible for learners with sight impairments. Because of this, it does not follow a slide structure.

# Welcome

Welcome to this session on question words (how).

By the end of this session, you will be able to use the question ‘how’ in the following ways:

* How
* How far
* How long
* How many
* How much
* How old

# What is a question?

A question is a sentence that asks something. A question needs to be answered. When you write a sentence, you must put a question mark at the end of it.

For example:

* How was the concert?
* How far is the house from the café?
* How long will it take?
* How many people are there?
* How much money do I need?
* How old is he?

Did you notice that all these questions start with a word beginning ‘how’? You will learn how to use the ‘how’ question word in this session.

# How

We use ‘how’ to ask about a condition or a quality.

Here are some examples:

* How was your exam?

The question is used to find out how someone’s exam went.

* How is your steak?

The question is used to find out the quality of someone’s steak.

Try it for yourself. Here are some words. Can you put them into a question beginning with ‘how’?

* Party?
* was
* your
* How

These words can make the question: How was your party?

# How far

We use ‘how far’ to ask about distance.

Here are some examples:

* How far is London from Birmingham?

This question is asking about the distance between the cities of London and Birmingham.

* How far is the train station?

This question is asking about the distance between your present location and the train station.

Try it for yourself. Here are some words. Can you rearrange them to make a question that begins with ‘how far’?

* Is
* How far
* museum?
* the

These words can make the question: How far is the museum?

# How long

We use ‘how long’ to ask about length. This can be a length of time or a length in space.

Here are some examples:

* How long is the film?

This question is asking the number of hours and minutes that a film lasts for.

* How long is the table?

This question is asking about the measurements of the longest side of the table. The answer could be in metres, centimetres, feet or inches.

Try it for yourself. Here are some words. Can you rearrange them to make a question that begins with ‘how long’?

* is
* long
* your
* garden?
* How

These words can make the question: How long is your garden?

# How many

We use ‘how many’ to find out the quantity of a countable item.

Here are some examples:

* How many cakes are there?

This question is asking about the quantity of cakes.

* How many shoes does Timothy own?

This question is asking about the quantity of shoes owned by Timothy.

Try it for yourself. Here are some words. Can you rearrange them to make a question that begins with ‘how many’?

* are
* How many
* coming
* people
* for dinner?

These words can make the question: How many people are coming for dinner?

# How much

We use ‘how much’ to find out the quantity of an uncountable item.

Here are some examples:

* How much money do you have with you?

This question is asking about the quantity of money you have with you right now.

* How much homework do you have?

This question is asking about the quantity of homework you have been set.

Try it for yourself. Here are some words. Can you rearrange them to make a question that begins with ‘how much’?

* milk
* the
* how much
* is in
* fridge?

These words can make the question: How much milk is in the fridge?

# How old

We use ‘how old’ to ask about age.

Here are some examples:

* How old is Lucas?

This question is asking about the age of Lucas.

* How old is this loaf of bread?

This question is asking about the age of the bread.

Try it for yourself. Here are some words. Can you rearrange them to make a question that begins with ‘how old’?

* is
* your
* How old
* dog?

These words can make the question: How old is your dog?

# Test your knowledge

Here are some questions to test what you have learnt.

Match these topics to the question word you would use to ask about them. For example, if you wanted to know the duration of a film, you would ask ‘how long’ it was.

Here are the question words:

* How
* How old
* How much
* How far
* How many

Here are the topics:

* If someone is feeling well or poorly
* The number of sweets in a jar
* The amount of change you received
* A person’s age
* The distance between two places

Here are the answers:

* If someone is feeling well or poorly – how, such as how are you feeling?
* The number of sweets in a jar – how many, such as how many sweets are there in the jar?
* The amount of change you received – how much, such as how much change did you get?
* A person’s age – how old, such as how old is she?
* The distance between two places – how far, such as how far is it to the shops from here?

Have a go at using the types of how to complete these sentences.

Here are the types of how you might use:

* How
* How much
* How many
* How long
* How old
* How far

Here are the questions you need to complete.

* [Blank] days are there in January?
* [Blank] cars are there?
* [Blank] will it take to walk there?
* [Blank] will you be on your birthday?
* [Blank] will it cost me?
* [Blank] is your house from college?
* [Blank] books did you buy?

Here are the answers. How did you do?

* How many days are there in January?
* How many cars are there?
* How long will it take to walk there?
* How old will you be on your birthday?
* How much will it cost me?
* How far is your house from college?
* How many books did you buy?

# Summary

Well done. You have completed this session on question words (how).

You should now be able to use the question ‘how’ in the following ways:

* How
* How far
* How long
* How many
* How much
* How old

If you are unsure or have any questions about any of these topics, make a note and speak to your tutor for more help.