# ESOL – Question Words - Wh

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 (wh).

By the end of this session, you will be able to use the following question words:

* What
* When
* Where
* Which
* Who
* Why

# 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:

* What is your name?
* When is your birthday?
* Where is the book?
* Which biscuit do you want?
* Who knocked at the door?
* Why do you work there?

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

# What

We use ‘what’ to find out information about something.

Here are some examples:

* What is your name?

The question is used to find out someone’s name.

* What is your phone number?

The question is used to find out someone’s phone number.

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

* for
* are you
* having
* What
* lunch?

These words can make the question: What are you having for lunch?

# When

We use ‘when to ask about time.

Here are some examples:

* When did Ishani leave?

This question is used to find out the time Ishani left.

* When is your doctor’s appointment?

This question is used to find out the time of someone’s doctor’s appointment.

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

* did
* When
* leave?
* your
* brother

These words can make the question: When did your brother leave?

# Where

We use ‘where’ to ask about the place or position of something.

Here are some examples:

* Where does Deven live?

This question is used to find out the location of Deven’s home.

* Where did you go on holiday?

This question is used to find out where someone went on holiday.

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

* school?
* Where
* your
* is

These words can make the question: Where is your school?

# Which

We use ‘which to ask about choice.

Here are some examples:

* Which colour do you want?

This question is used to find out your choice of colour.

* Which trousers shall I wear?

This question is used to find out your opinion on my choice of trousers

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

* restaurant
* did
* Which
* you
* visit?

These words can make the question: Which restaurant did you visit?

# Who

We use ‘who to find out about a person or people.

Here are some examples:

* Who came to your party?

This question is used to find out which people came to someone’s party.

* Who opened the door?

This question is used to find out which person opened the door.

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

* flowers?
* gave
* those
* Who
* you

These words can make the question: Who gave those you those flowers?

# Why

We use ‘why’ to ask for a reason.

Here are some examples:

* Why do you hate cricket?

This question is used to find out the reason why someone hates cricket.

* Why did Lisa do that?

This question is used to find out the reason why Lisa did something.

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

* did
* say
* Why
* you
* that?

These words can make the question: Why did you say that?

# Test your knowledge

Here are some questions to test what you have learnt.

Have a go at using the different wh question words to complete these sentences.

Here are the wh words that you might use.

* Why
* What
* Where
* When
* Which
* Who

Here are the questions you need to complete.

* [Blank] are you doing on Tuesday night?
* [Blank] is he going?
* [Blank] will she get home?
* [Blank] didn’t you call me?
* [Blank] team won the match?
* [Blank] painting is your favourite?
* [Blank] is your doctor’s appointment?

Here are the answers.

* What are you doing on Tuesday night?
* Where is he going? / When is he going? / Why is he going? – All three are correct.
* When will she get home?
* Why didn’t you call me?
* Which team won the match?
* Which painting is your favourite?
* When is your doctor’s appointment?

Which of the wh question words would you use when asking a question about each of these situations?

As a reminder, here are the question words again:

* Which
* Who
* Why
* What
* When
* Where

The situations are:

* Asking about the location of somewhere
* Asking about the time something will happen
* Identifying a person
* Finding out someone’s motivations
* Find out information about something
* Asking about choices

The answers are:

* Asking about the location of somewhere – where, such as where is the cinema?
* Asking about the time something will happen – when, such as what time is the film?
* Identifying a person – who, such as who is going to the film with you?
* Finding out someone’s motivations – why, such as why do you want to see that film?
* Finding out information about something – what, such as what is the film about?
* Asking about choices – which, such as which film are you going to see?

# Summary

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

You should now be able to use the following question words:

* What
* When
* Where
* Which
* Who
* Why

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