

Lesson 8: Information questions

Review: Yes/No questions

A **yes/no** question can be answered with a simple "yes" or "no."

Write the rule for forming Yes/No questions in English.

To make a Yes/No question, _____

Information questions

Where will you live?

The answer to this question cannot be answered with a simple "yes" or "no." It must contain some information. For example: *We will live in Queens.*

Now we need the rule for asking **information questions** in English. If we want to ask an **information question** in English, we put a **question word** (?w) before the X-Word.

Here are some examples:

?w X Vb
Who will you ask to the party?

?w X
When are you leaving?

?w X dtn
How long have you lived in New York?

As you can see, the word order is:

Question word X-Word subject verb information ?

★Rule: to make an information question,

- move the X-Word in front of the subject,
- write the question word (?w) in front of the X-Word, and
- add a "?"



The Question Words and Examples

Question words "¿w"		Question	Answer
who	1 person or 2 or more people	Who is that?	That's Wei . He's in my class.
what	a thing, an event	What is he doing?	He is writing .
when	time	When will he finish?	He'll probably finish by tonight .
where	location	Where does he live?	He lives in New Jersey .
why	reason	Why does he live in New Jersey?	His aunt lives there .
how	in what way or manner	How does he get to school?	He takes the bus .
Question phrases			
what kind of	type	What kind of paper is he writing?	He's writing an essay .
what time	specific time	What time does class start?	It starts at 9 o'clock .
how many	number	How many essays does he need to write?	Just one .
how often	number of times	How often does he write an essay?	His teacher assigns one essay every week .
how long	duration	How long does it take him to write an essay?	It takes him a long time!

A little more about word order

English is a word order language. There is a typical order to all of the parts of the sentence.

You probably know that English is an "SVO" language, **SUBJECT VERB OBJECT**.

We often add information about the action (verb) after the **OBJECT**. These bits of extra information tell us **where, when, how, and why** the action took place.

They are called ad-ver-bi-als.

SUBJECT VERB OBJECT ADVERBIALS

Of course, they must come in a set order.

One way to remember the order is to chant *Who did What **Where When How Why***

Pay attention to the order of the parts of the sentence as we practice.





Vocabulary for the exercises:

Before you do the exercises, do you know these wedding words?

bride groom wedding reception roof-top
 honeymoon diamond engagement the bride-to-be



Information Questions: Examples

Subject "Who"	Verb "Did"	What (object)	Where	When
The bride	is wearing	a white dress	at her wedding	this June

?w X S Ving
 What is the bride wearing? WHAT? a white dress.

?w X S Ving
 Where is she wearing a white dress? WHERE? at her wedding

?w X S Ving
 When is she wearing a white dress? WHEN? this June

Subject "Who"	Verb "Did"	What (object)	Where	When
The couple	will go		on their honeymoon	after the wedding.

?w X S Vb
 Where will the couple go after the wedding? WHERE? on their honeymoon

?w X S Vb
 When will they go on their honeymoon? WHEN? after the wedding



Lesson 8 Exercise 1 Which question word or phrase should start these questions?

How many people What color How long Where Why

1. _____ is Suzy's wedding dress?
Suzy's dress is white.
2. _____ is her boyfriend's office?
His office is on Main Street.
3. _____ is Suzy have a huge wedding?
Suzy is having a huge wedding because she has a big family.
4. _____ is she inviting?.
She is inviting 250 people.
5. _____ have they been engaged?
Suzy and Mike have been engaged for two years.

Lesson 8 Exercise 2: Study the order of the words in these sentences, then write the information questions.

Subject	Verb	What (object)	When
Suzy	is having	a huge wedding	this June.

1. (what) _____
2. (when) _____

Subject	Verb	What (object)	Where	When
Her boyfriend	has bought	a diamond engagement ring	at the jewelry store	already.

3. (what) _____
4. (where) _____
5. (when) _____

Subject	Verb	Where?	Why?
Their reception	will be	at a roof-top restaurant	because it's beautiful.

6. (where) _____
7. (why) _____



Lesson 8 Exercise 3:

Write **SUBJECT WHAT WHERE WHEN** over the underlined parts of the sentence, then write the information questions.

The bride-to-be should choose the wedding cake at a bakery months before the wedding.

- 1. what (object) _____
- 2. where _____
- 3. when _____

Lesson 8 Exercise 4 More practice

Directions: Write the name of the adverbial (where, when, why) over the underlined words. Then write information questions for the underlined parts of these sentences.

1. Suzy has known her boyfriend, Mike, since high school.
 (how long) _____

2. The bride and groom are going on a honeymoon after the wedding.
 (where) _____
 (when) _____

3. Suzy and Mike are going to Maine because they like fishing and camping.
 (where) _____
 (why) _____

4. They will return to school after the honeymoon.
 (where) _____
 (when) _____

